12
SUZUKA
KOUJI SEO

SUZUKA

Kouji Seo

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
David Ury

LETTERED BY
North Market Street Graphics

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Suzuka 12

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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A Note from the Author

WHENEVER SUMMER APPROACHES, I GET THIS FEELING THAT SOMETHING GOOD IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. IT ALWAYS PUTS ME IN A GOOD MOOD, BUT THE SUMMER DAYS JUST FLY BY WHEN I'M WORKING. I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR VACATION, SO I FIGURED I COULD AT LEAST DRAW MYSELF GOING TO THE BEACH. "PHEW, HAWAII SURE IS HOT!!" —KOUJI SEO

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

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Kouji Seo

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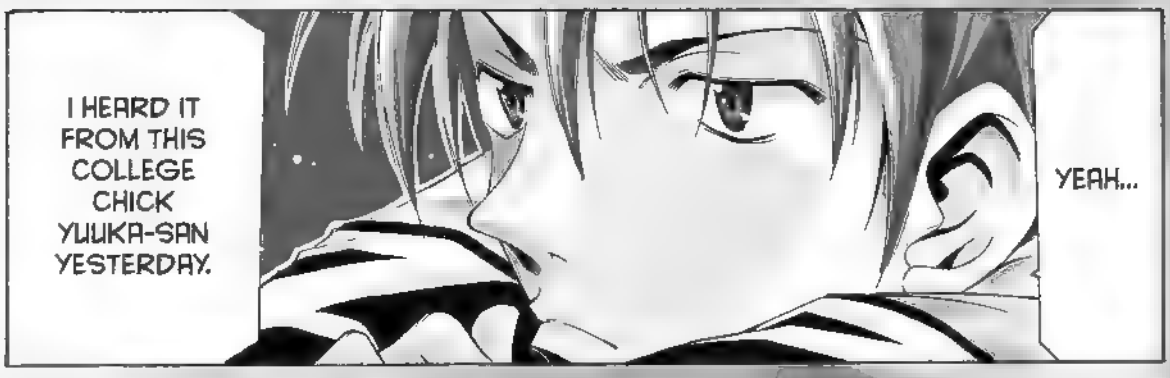
PLEASE DON'T TELL YAMATO-KUN ABOUT ME GOING ABROAD YET, OKAY...?
SQUINCH
TSSSSSS
GEEZ...
THOSE TWO ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE...

#97 STUDY ABROAD

SUZUKA

SUZUKA'S GOING ABROAD?


I HEARD IT FROM THIS COLLEGE CHICK YUUKA-SAN YESTERDAY.
YEAH...

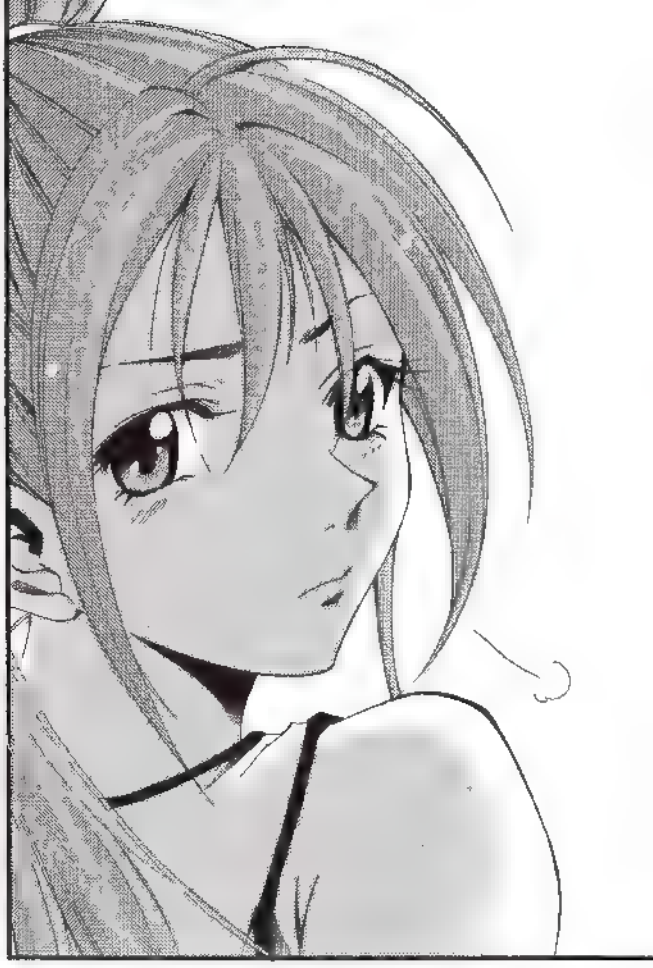
W-WELL... YEAH...
YOU MEAN YOU KNEW?
WHAT...?

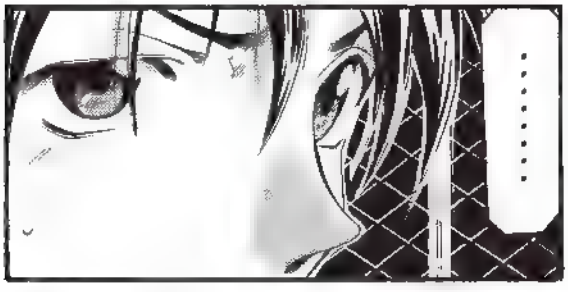
OH...
SO, YOU KNOW.

WELL... SUZUKA TOLD ME TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT...
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME...?

REMEMBER THAT DAY WHEN THE GUY FROM THE SHOE COMPANY CAME TO VISIT SUZUKA AT SCHOOL?
THAT NIGHT, SUZUKA TOLD ME THAT HE ASKED HER ABOUT GOING ABROAD.
I TOLD SUZUKA THAT SHE SHOULD FOLLOW HER HEART AND DO WHAT SHE WANTS TO DO...
SO...
I GUESS SHE'S GOING TO AMERICA...
.....
HUH...?
WHY?
EVERYONE KNEW EXCEPT ME...
WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME?

SHE PROBABLY COULDN'T TELL YOU... BECAUSE YOU'RE HER BOYFRIEND.
WHAT...?

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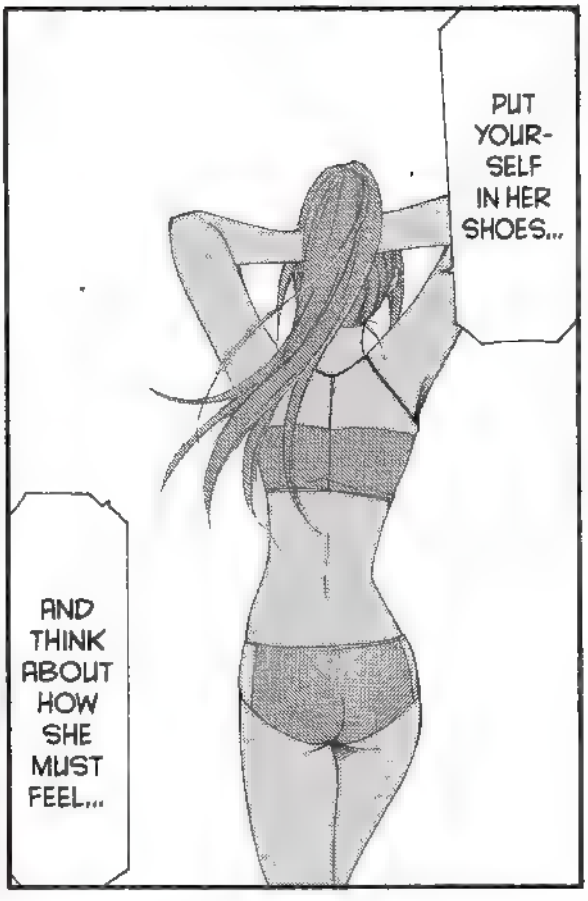
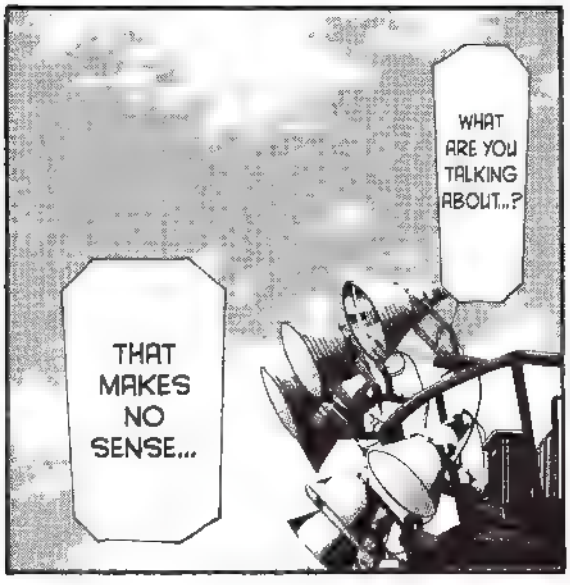
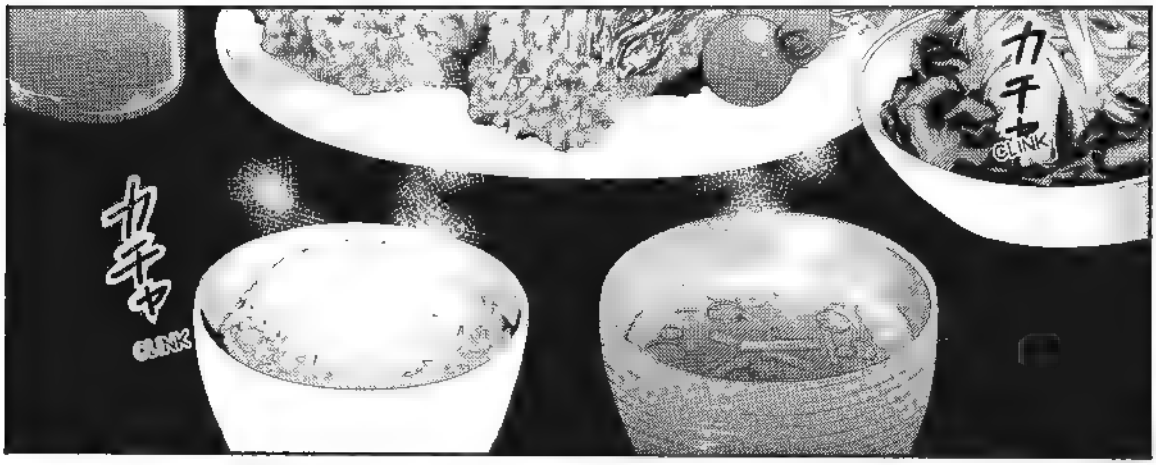
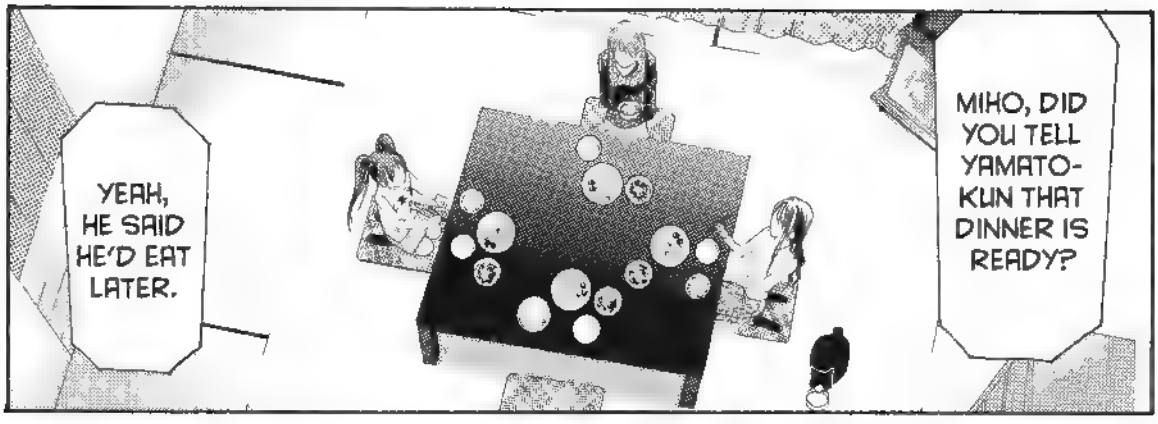
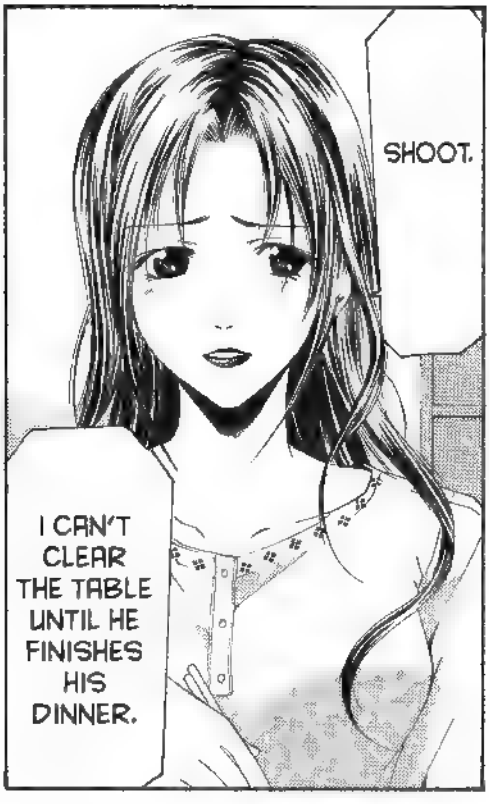

PUT YOURSELF IN HER SHOES...
AND THINK ABOUT HOW SHE MUST FEEL...


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
THAT MAKES NO SENSE...


カチャ
CLINK
カチャ
CLINK

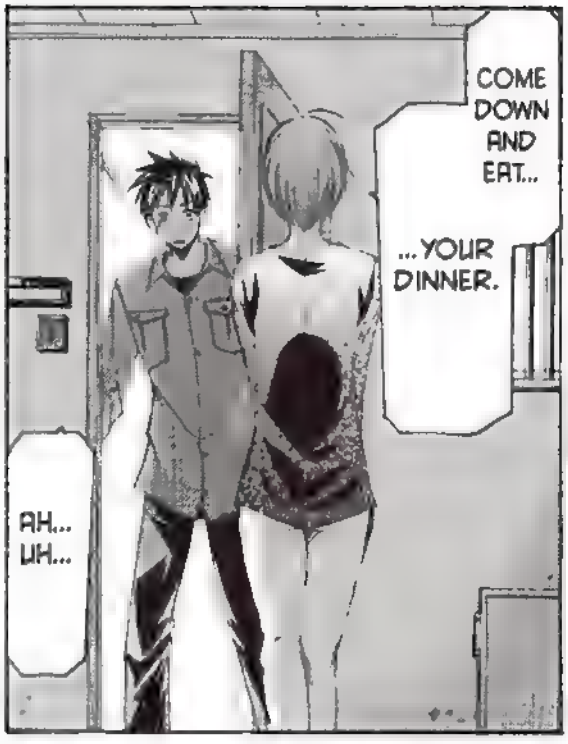

YEAH, HE SAID HE'D EAT LATER.
MIHO, DID YOU TELL YAMATO-KUN THAT DINNER IS READY?

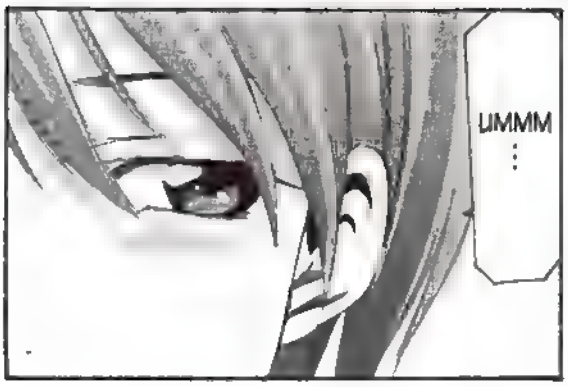

SHOOT.
I CAN'T CLEAR THE TABLE UNTIL HE FINISHES HIS DINNER.

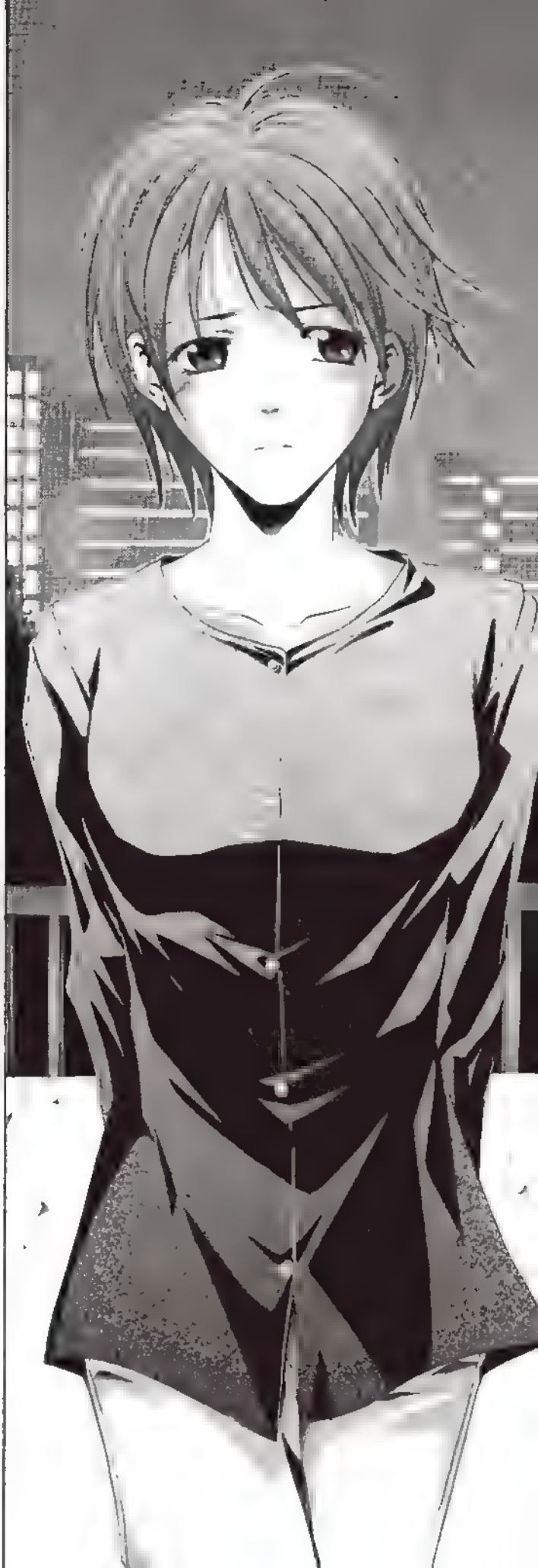
YAMATO AKITSUKI
THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW...!!
LIKE WHAT?
YEAH...
PUT YOURSELF IN HER SHOES.
AND THINK ABOUT HOW SHE MUST FEEL...

...SHE TAKES HER TRAINING SERIOUSLY. I GET IT!
I KNOW...
WAS SHE WORRIED I'D TRY TO STOP HER OR SOME-THING?
.....
BUT WHY DIDN'T SHE TELL ME FIRST?
ピンポーン
DING DONG
I MEAN...
ガチャ
CLICK
YAMATO AKITSUKI
YEAH...?

ASAHINA
...


COME DOWN AND EAT...
...YOUR DINNER.
AH... UH...


UMMM
...

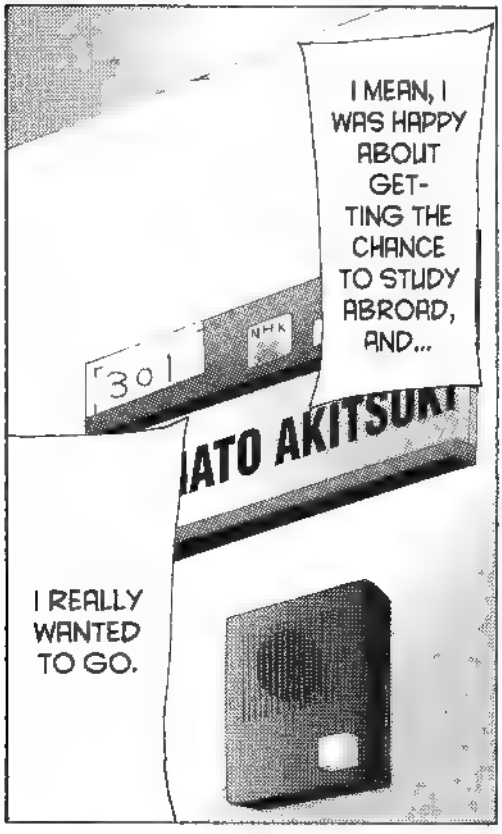


HEY WAIT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

I DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU!!
THEN WHAT?

DID YOU THINK I'D TRY TO STOP YOU?
N-NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL AT ME LIKE THAT!!


I MEAN, I WAS HAPPY ABOUT GET-TING THE CHANCE TO STUDY ABROAD, AND...
I REALLY WANTED TO GO.

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU?
WHAT...?

SO...?
I KNOW THERE'LL BE TONS OF GREAT ATHLETES AND I'LL HAVE TO TRAIN REALLY HARD.
BUT I'M TALKING ABOUT GOING TO AMERICA, YOU KNOW!
...I'LL BE SO BUSY WITH PRACTICE EVERY DAY...
SO...
I PROB-ABLY...
...WON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.
AND...

I KNOW...
...YOU'LL BE LONELY.

SHE PROBABLY COULDN'T TELL YOU...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE HER BOYFRIEND.

SO, ASAHINA...
WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME...
WHAT WAS I THINKING...!
OH...
WHAT...?
I'LL BE FINE...

I'LL MISS YOU A LOT.
BUT, I CAN TAKE IT
.....
YAMPIRE-KUN...

I KNOW HOW SERIOUS YOU ARE ABOUT YOUR TRAINING.
AND I KNOW YOU WANNA AIM FOR THE TOP.
LOOK, I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN YOU THINK...
...I GET IT.
SO DON'T WORRY.
I CAN HANDLE IT.
.....

THANK YOU.
WHAT...?
A-ALL RIGHT! SO, HOW ABOUT WE START STUDYING A LITTLE ENGLISH.
I'LL HELP YOU!!
GEEZ, THANKS A LOT.
UHH, I THINK I'LL LEARN FASTER WITHOUT YOU.

SUZUKA

#98 AN INTERVIEW

SO, IN AMERICA SCHOOL STARTS IN SEPTEMBER?
720 YEN*
HMMM...

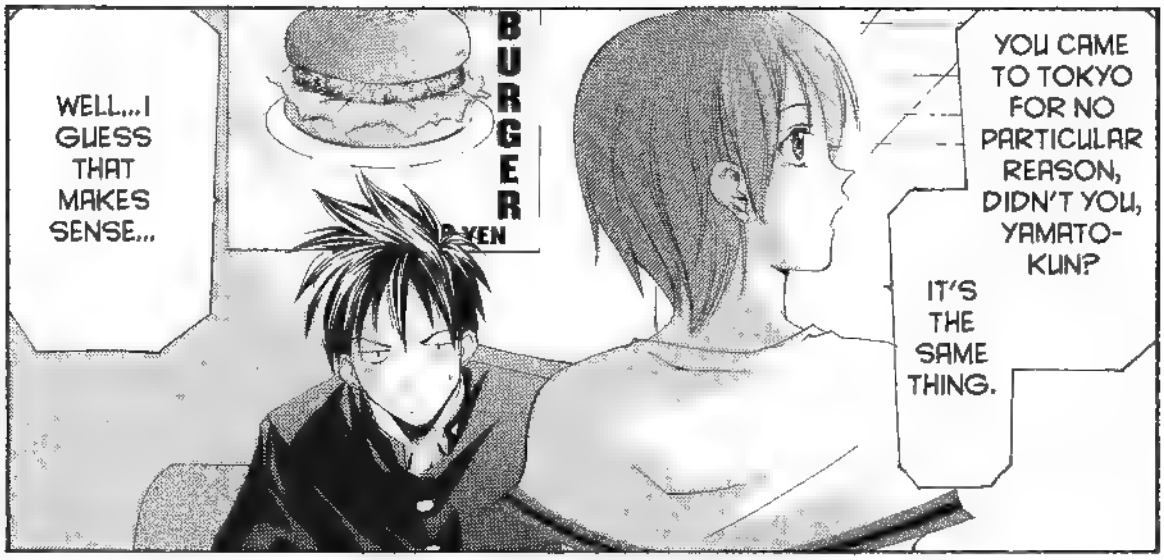
WHAT...?
WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO STUDY ABROAD, ASAHINA?

HAMBURGER
720 YEN*
IT'S SAYS HERE "YOU'LL HAVE YOUR OWN ROOM AND A COMPUTER WITH FREE INTERNET ACCESS... ...OUR FIRST-RATE COACH WILL PERSONALLY TRAIN YOU." WOW, THAT SOUNDS GREAT.
HEY, DON'T SPILL YOUR KETCHUP.

I MEAN...
...I KNOW YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT TRAINING AND ALL BUT...
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT BEFORE YOU STARTED GOING HERE, YOU DIDN'T EVEN CHECK TO SEE HOW GOOD THE TRACK TEAM WAS?

*$7.00

NO.
WAIT, IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAME IN THIRD AT THE Jr. MEET, ISN'T IT... THAT'S WHAT MADE YOU START TAKING THINGS SO SERIOUSLY, RIGHT?
THEN WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE REASON?
WERE YOU INSPIRED WHEN YOU SAW THE TRACK WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS?
NO.
THERE'S REALLY NO BIG REASON.
WHY WOULD YOU GO STUDY ABROAD FOR NO REASON?
GOD, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE...
MBURGER
720 YEN


BURGER
¥XEN
WELL...I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE...
IT'S THE SAME THING.
YOU CAME TO TOKYO FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON, DIDN'T YOU, YAMATO-KUN?

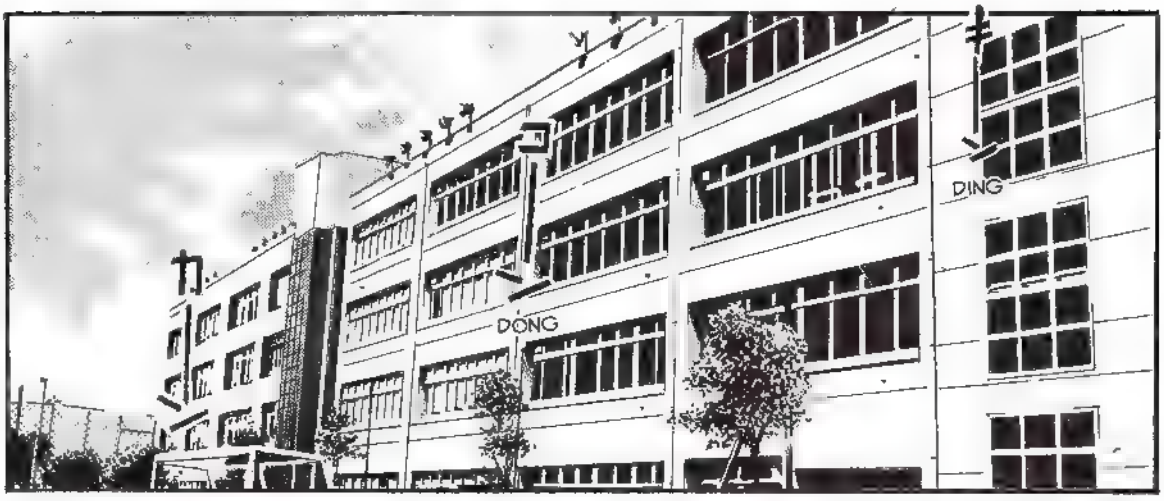
I HEARD IF YOU ORDER A MEDIUM COKE OUT THERE, THEY GIVE YOU A BUCKET.
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO GAIN WEIGHT WHEN I GO TO AMERICA.

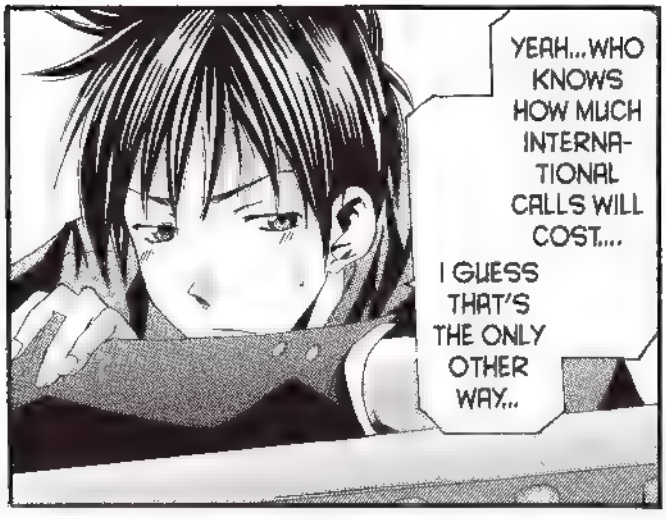
NO...
STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT MY REASON FOR GOING?
WHAT'S WRONG...?

AH... YEAH...
WHAT...?

I WAS JUST THINK-ING...
...I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING...
WHAT...
ONCE YOU'RE OVER THERE, WE PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK ON THE PHONE THAT OFTEN.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HAVE SILLY LITTLE CONVERSATIONS LIKE THIS ONE.

WHAT……?
DON'T WORRY.
720円
……
I WON'T BE LEAVING FOR ANOTHER FIVE MONTHS, SO...
WE CAN HAVE PLENTY OF...
...SILLY CONVER-SATIONS UNTIL THEN...
OH, AND I'LL WRITE YOU! IT'S CHEAPER THAT WAY.
YOU HAVE TO WRITE ME BACK THOUGH, OKAY?
YEAH...I WILL.
AH... YEAH...

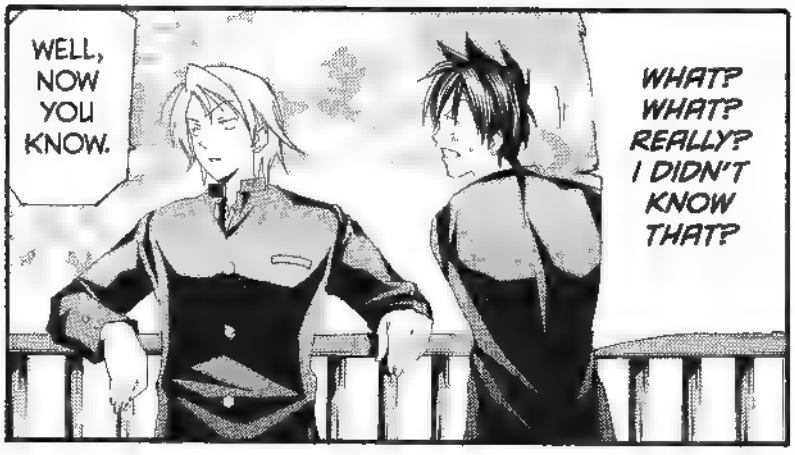

DONG
DING

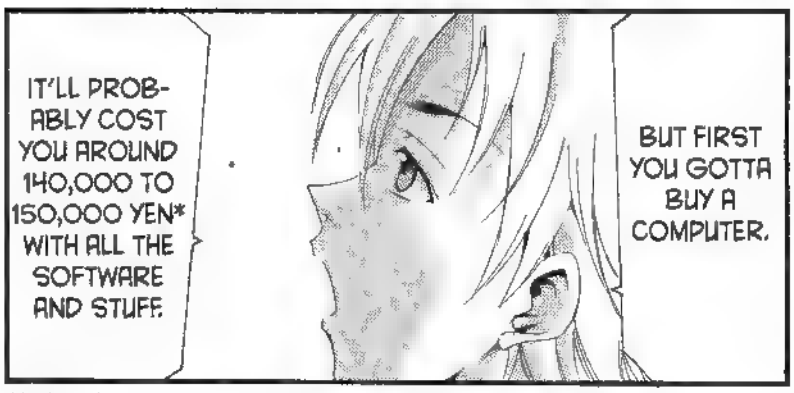

YEAH...WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH INTERNA-TIONAL CALLS WILL COST....
I GUESS THAT'S THE ONLY OTHER WAY...

SHE'S GONNA WRITE YOU?

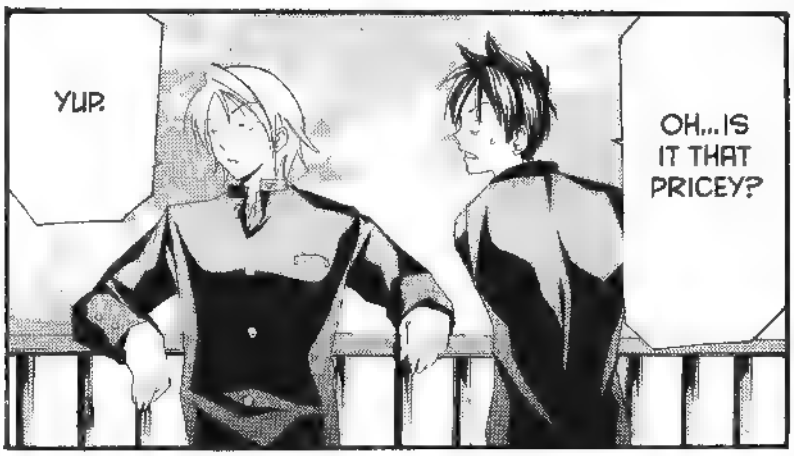
W-WELL, WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
AND ALL YOU'RE GONNA DO IS WRITE HER? YOU'RE COOL WITH THAT?
SHE'S GOING TO BE GONE FOR A YEAR RIGHT?

UH...
THE BROCHURE SAID SHE'D GET HER OWN COMPUTER AND FREE INTERNET ACCESS.
DOES SUZUKA-CHAN HAVE A COMPUTER?

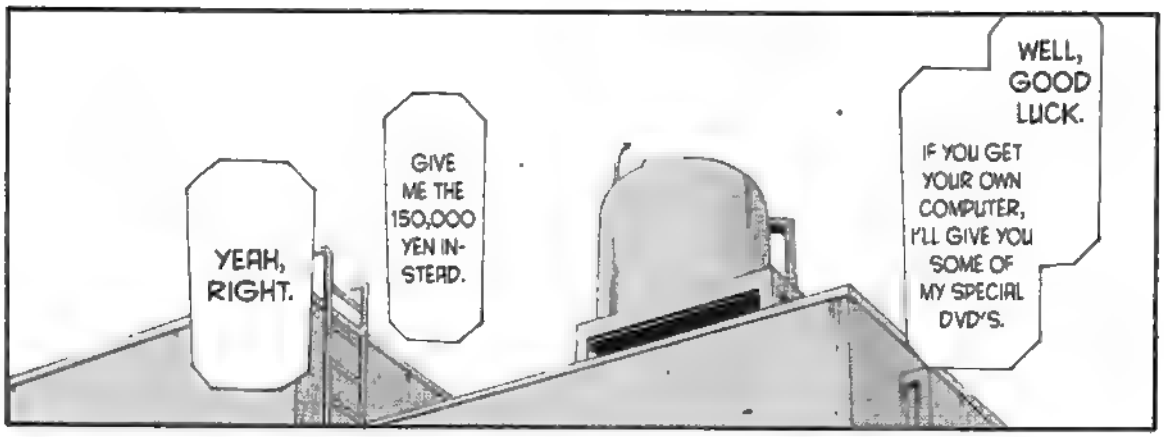

WELL, NOW YOU KNOW.
WHAT? WHAT? REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT?

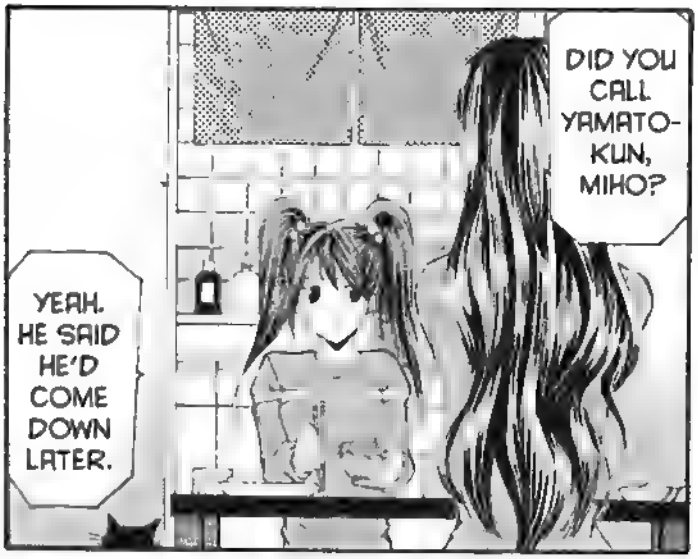

IT'LL PROBABLY COST YOU AROUND 140,000 TO 150,000 YEN* WITH ALL THE SOFTWARE AND STUFF.
BUT FIRST YOU GOTTA BUY A COMPUTER.

*$1,400-$1,500


YUP.
OH... IS IT THAT PRICEY?

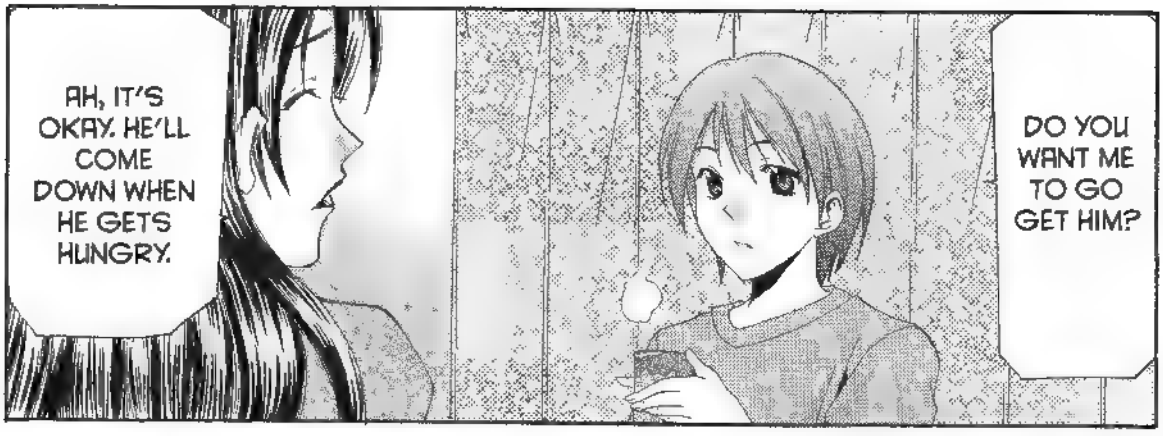
THEN YOU CAN JUST CALL HER OVER THE NET.
IT'S TOTALLY FREE.

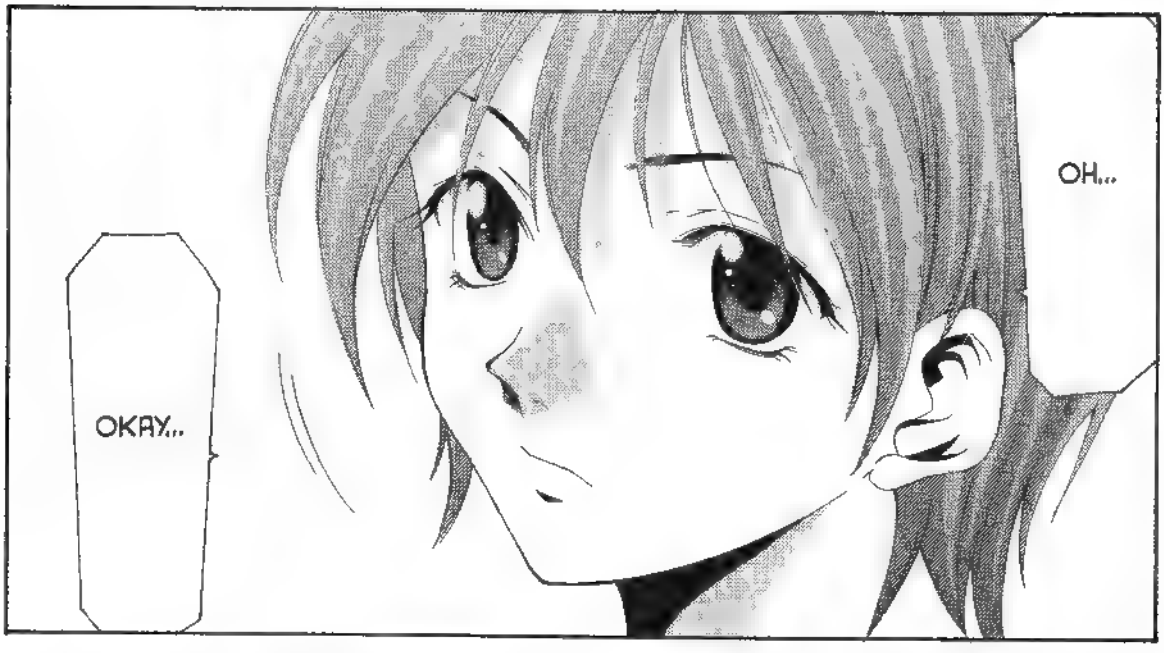

WELL, GOOD LUCK.
IF YOU GET YOUR OWN COMPUTER, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME OF MY SPECIAL DVD'S.
GIVE ME THE 150,000 YEN INSTEAD.
YEAH, RIGHT.


DID YOU CALL YAMATO-KUN, MIHO?
YEAH. HE SAID HE'D COME DOWN LATER.

GEEZ... WHAT IS HE DOING? I CAN'T FINISH CLEANING TILL HE COMES DOWN.

ASAHIYU BATHS

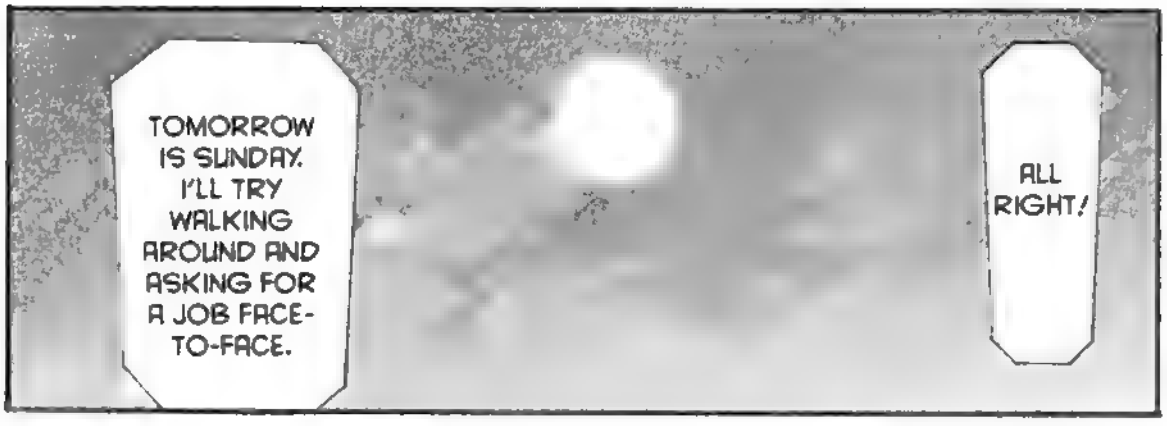

AH, IT'S OKAY. HE'LL COME DOWN WHEN HE GETS HUNGRY.
DO YOU WANT ME TO GO GET HIM?


OH...
OKAY...

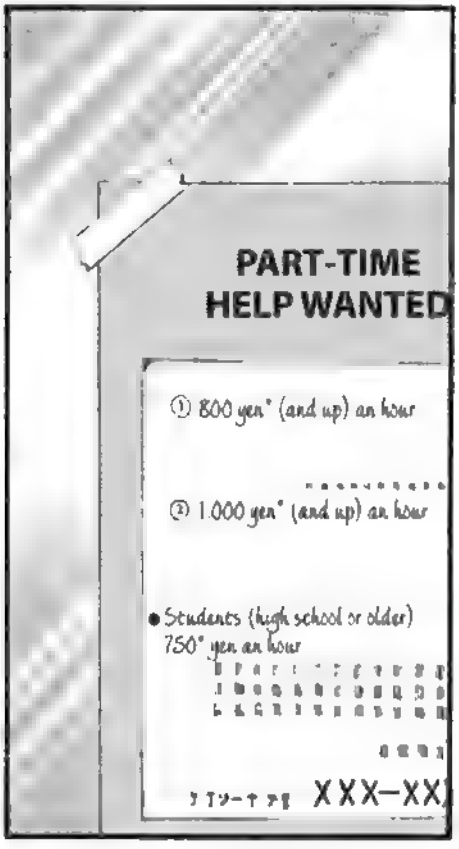
YES... UH-HUH...
OKAY...
THANKS ANYWAY.

301
YAMATO AKITSU

FWICK
THAT PLACE TURNED ME DOWN, TOO...
SIGH...
FWAP
FWUMP
I GUESS NO ONE WANTS TO HIRE SOME-ONE WHO CAN ONLY WORK ONE DAY A WEEK.
SIGH...
DAMN IT! I MADE THIRTY CALLS AND I COULDN'T EVEN GET A SINGLE INTERVIEW!!
NOT ONLY AM I NOT GONNA MAKE ANY MONEY, I'M SPENDING TONS ON MAKING THESE STUPID CALLS.
BUT I CAN'T WORK MORE THAN THAT BECAUSE OF PRACTICE.
OUR OLD CAPTAIN WOULD KILL ME IF HE CAUGHT ME DITCHING PRACTICE FOR A PART-TIME JOB.


TOMORROW IS SUNDAY. I'LL TRY WALKING AROUND AND ASKING FOR A JOB FACE-TO-FACE.
ALL RIGHT!

I SEE YOU'RE A FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL... THAT'S FINE, BUT...
YOU CAN ONLY WORK ONCE A WEEK?


PART-TIME HELP WANTED
① 800 yen* (and up) an hour
② 1,000 yen* (and up) an hour
• Students (high school or older) 750* yen an hour
XXX-XX

*¥8.00, ¥10.00, ¥7.50

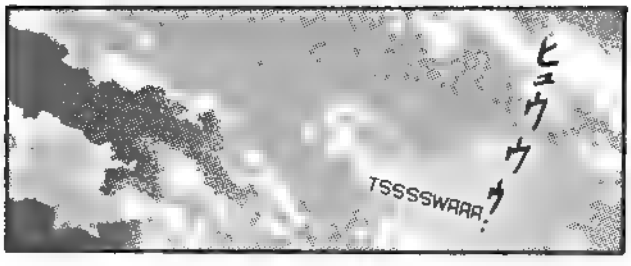
SPECIAL SKILLS...?
PLEASE!! I'M A HARD WORKER!!
I'LL WORK TWICE AS FAST AS EVERYONE ELSE...AND LOOK AT THE SPECIAL SKILLS SECTION ON MY RESUME!!
Abacus Level 6
Fast Runner
k Hiroshima Dialect
I'M SORRY... BUT I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T HELP YOU...
PLEASE, I'LL DO ANY-THING!!
OH, AND IF YOU REALLY WANT TO FIND A JOB, I'D SUGGEST THAT YOU TAKE THE "ABACUS LEVEL 6" THING OFF YOUR RESUME.

PLEASE!!

PART-TIME
HELP WANTED

W-WAIT A MINUTE, BUDDY. DID YOU EVEN READ THE SIGN?
I'LL WORK REAL HARD. I'LL DO WHATEVER THE MAMA-SAN SAYS.

DUDE, GO HOME.
BUT I'M A HARD WORKER!!


ヒュウウウ
TSSSSWAAA!

WE'RE LOOK-ING FOR HOST-ESSES.
WE'RE ONLY HIRING GIRLS WHO ARE TWENTY OR OLDER.
...AND YOU DON'T FALL INTO EITHER CAT-EGORY.

I WENT TO TWENTY DIF-FERENT PLACES...
...AND NO ONE WOULD EVEN GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY.
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
TOKYO IS ONE TOUGH PLACE...
WELL, WHO'D WANT TO HIRE SOMEONE WHO CAN ONLY WORK ONCE A WEEK?
PART-TIMER WANTED
•Males over 16 only
•Work as little as one day a week
AH...?

PLEASE!!
WELL... I KNOW IT SAYS AS LITTLE AS ONCE A WEEK, BUT...
I'D PREFER SOMEONE WHO CAN COME IN MORE FREQUENTLY.

YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE!!
I'VE BEEN TURNED DOWN EVERYWHERE ELSE.

WELL...
I REALLY DON'T...
FWUMP
I'LL WORK THREE TIMES HARDER THAN ANYBODY ELSE.
AND I'LL DO ANYTHING THE "MAMA-SAN" SAYS.
IF YOU GET ANY CUSTOMERS FROM HIROSHIMA, I CAN TRANSLATE, AND I CAN DO ADDITION IN MY HEAD... UP TO THREE DIGITS...

I'M BACK!
DING
カラン
DONG
カラン
.....
PLEASE!
I BOUGHT YOU SOME CANNED TOMATOES.
AH, THANKS. I'M HAVING AN INTER-VIEW FOR THE PART-TIME POSI-TION RIGHT NOW...
.....!?

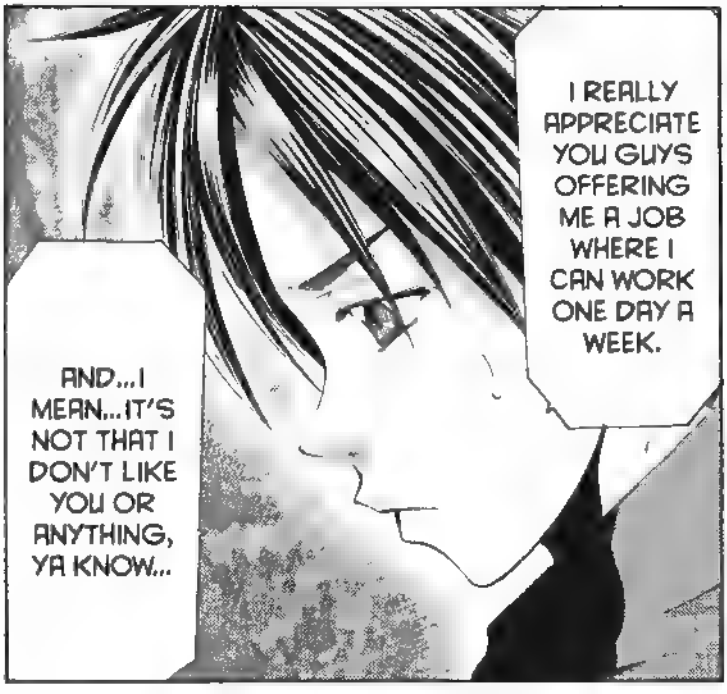
AH... YAMATO-KUN.
WHAT AM I DOING HERE? MY FAMILY RUNS THIS PLACE.
Café & Restau
Amami
WHAT?
Y-YUI CHAN...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

AH... YAMATO-KUN.
Y-YUI CHAN...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
WHAT AM DOING HERE...?
MY FAMILY RUNS THIS PLACE.
WHAT...?
Café & Restaura
Amami

SUZUKA

#99 RECONCILIATION
SUZUKA

HEY, ARE YOU GOING TO START WORK-ING HERE, YAMATO-KUN?
AH...
REMEMBER WHEN WENT TO THAT THEME PARK THE OTHER DAY? WELL, THIS IS ONE OF THE GUYS WHO WENT WITH ME
AH... YEAH...
SO YOU'RE A FRIEND OF YUI'S?
THIS IS NO GOOD... EVEN IF I AM DOING IT FOR SUZUKA.
WELL... UH...
AH...!
FWUMP
Y-YOU KNOW WHAT? ON SECOND THOUGHT, JUST FOR-GET ABOUT IT. UH, I'VE GOTTA GO.
WE SHOULD HIRE HIM, DAD.
YAMATO-KUN'S A REALLY HARD WORKER. YOU CAN TRUST HIM.
WELL... IF YOU SAY SO...
WHAT'S WRONG, YAMATO-KUN?
HANG ON.
THAT'S OKAY. I JUST CAN'T DO IT.

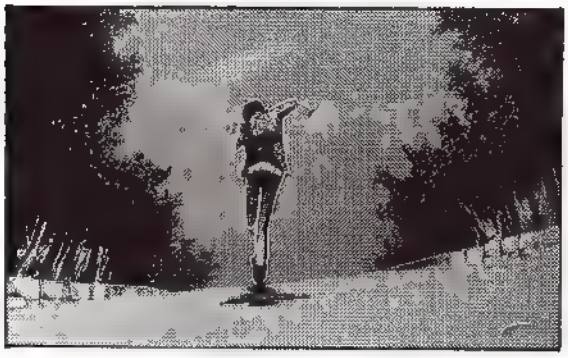

I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU GUYS OFFERING ME A JOB WHERE I CAN WORK ONE DAY A WEEK.
AND...I MEAN...IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU OR ANYTHING, YA KNOW...

YEAH...
I KNOW.

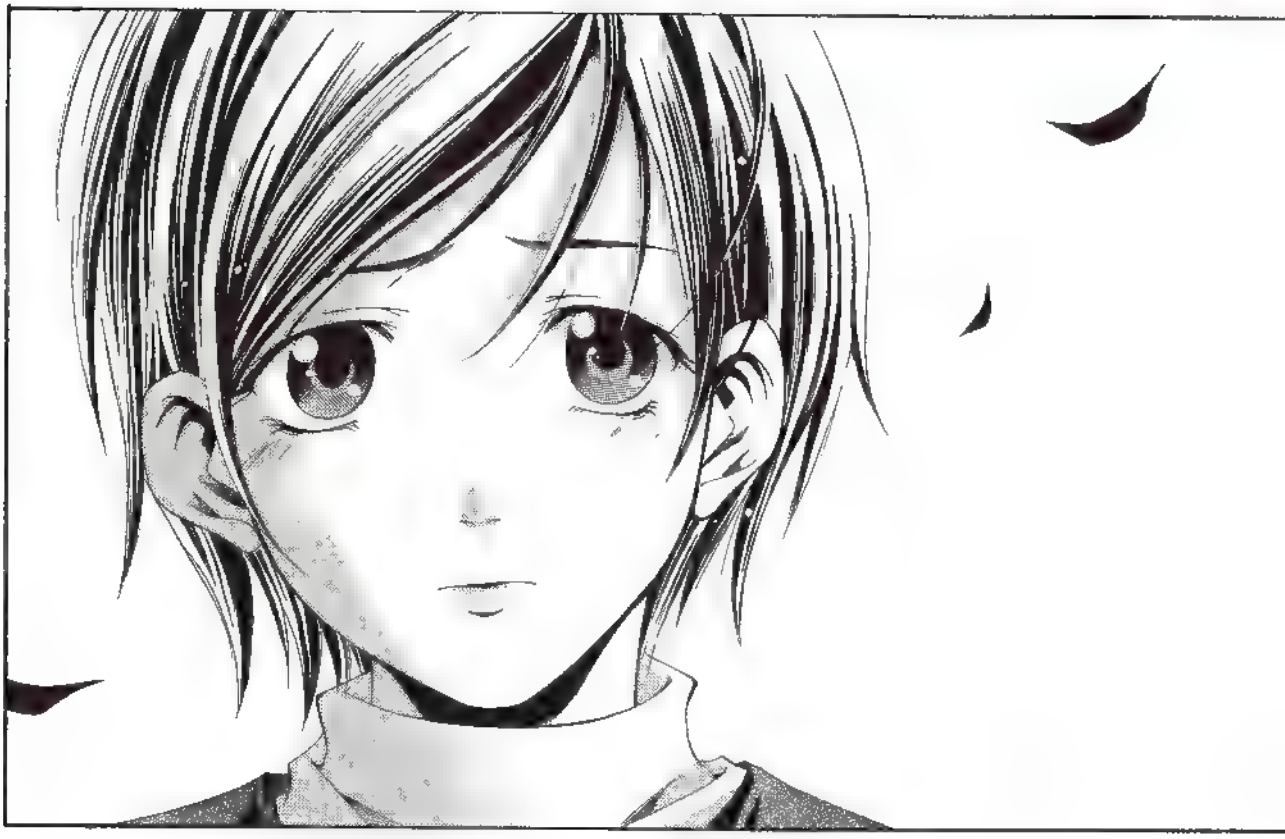
OH...NOW I GET IT.
SORRY.

EXACTLY
SO, YOU CAN'T JUST TELL HER YOU'RE GONNA BE WORKING OVER AT MY PLACE NOW.
YOU AND YOUR GIRL-FRIEND GOT INTO A FIGHT OVER OUR LITTLE DATE.
KNOW
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? IT'LL BE REALLY HARD TO FIND A JOB IF YOU CAN ONLY WORK ONCE A WEEK...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
YEAH, I'LL BE FINE! THINGS'LL WORK OUT.
WELL, I'VE STILL GOT SOME TIME BEFORE SHE GOES AWAY.
I'LL FIND SOME-THING.

STEP
A 14
AH... YAMATO-KUN.
GOOD NIGHT!



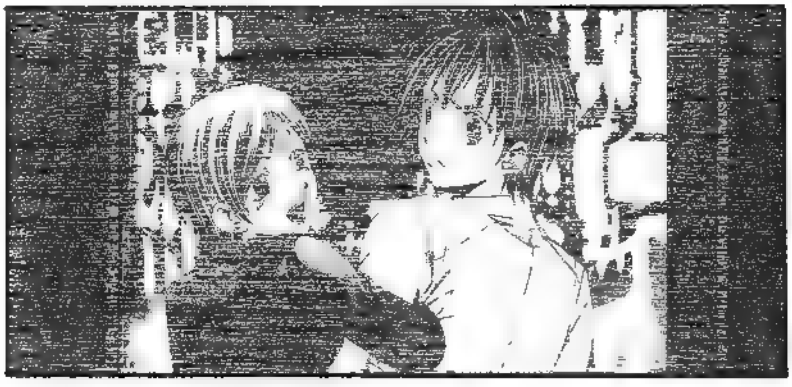
WELL, THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.
TELL YOUR DAD THAT I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THE JOB.

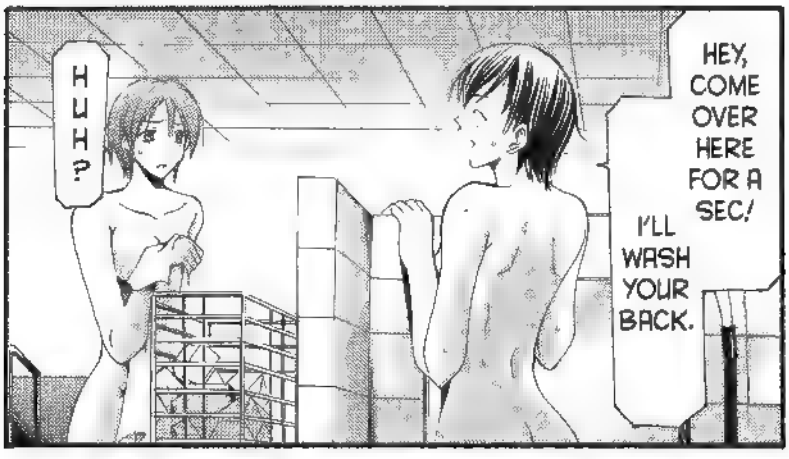


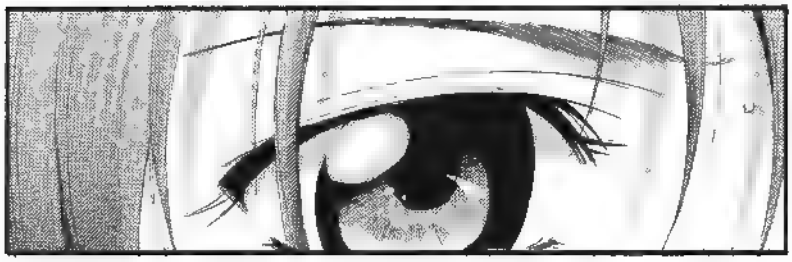
THE FOLLOW-ING DAY
ASAHIYU BATHS
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
WHERE THE HELL DID YAMATO-KUN GO?
GEEZ...
SORRY, ASAHINA!!
I'VE GOT PLANS TODAY, SO I'VE GOTTA TAKE OFF.
WELL.
WHAT-EVER.
I'M ALL SWEATY ANYWAY. BETTER TAKE A BATH BEFORE DINNER.

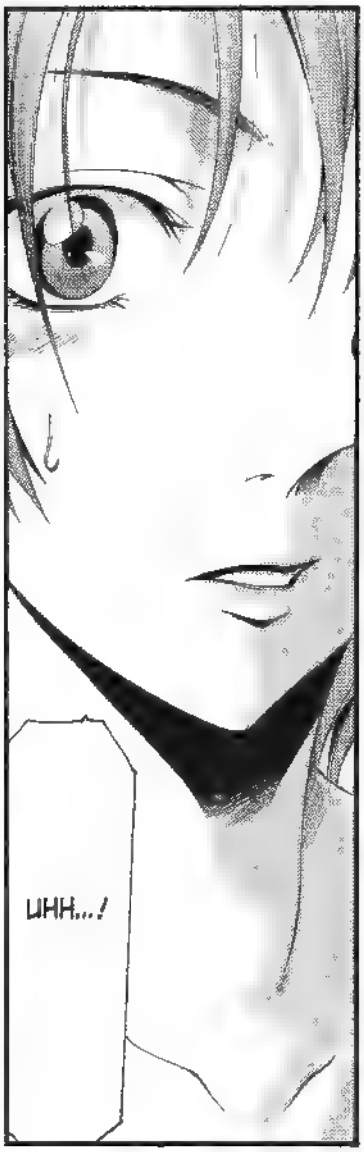
WOMEN'S BATH
AH THERE SHE IS!
HI, ASAHINA SAN!
カルラ
ガラ

I STOPPED BY YOUR ROOM BEFORE, BUT YOU WEREN'T HOME.
I FIGURED YOU'D TURN UP HERE EVENTUALLY, SO I WAITED FOR YOU.




HEY, COME OVER HERE FOR A SEC!
I'LL WASH YOUR BACK.
HUH?




UHH...!

UH...
ARE YOU STILL MAD AT ME?

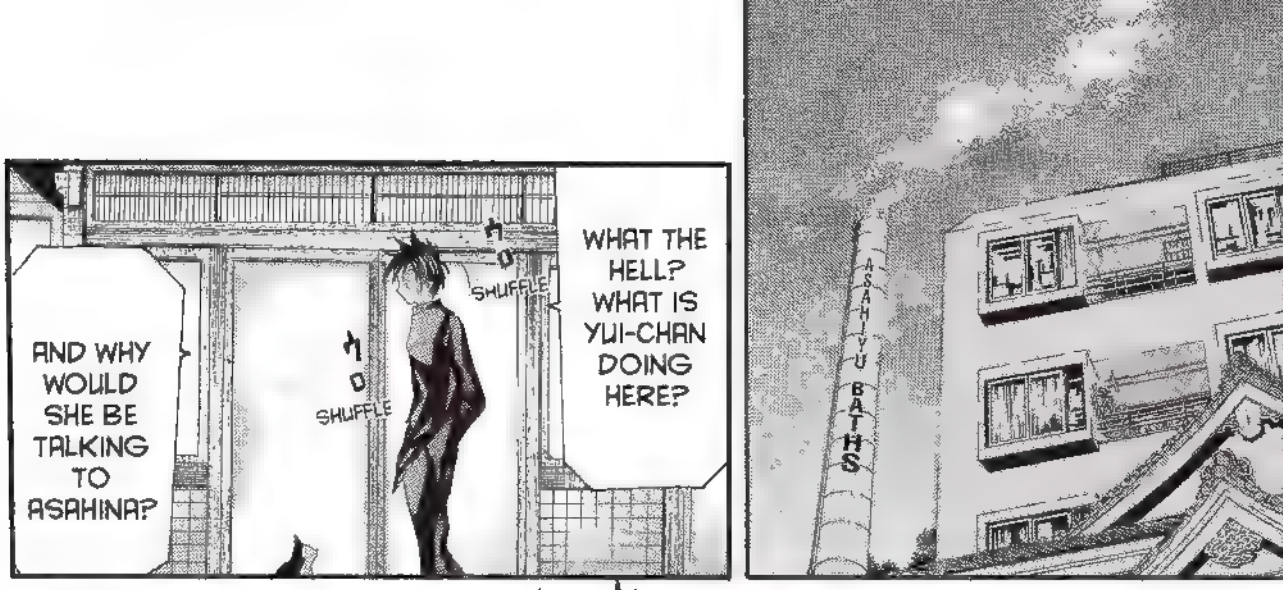
SPLASH
AH...

NOT REALLY...
.....

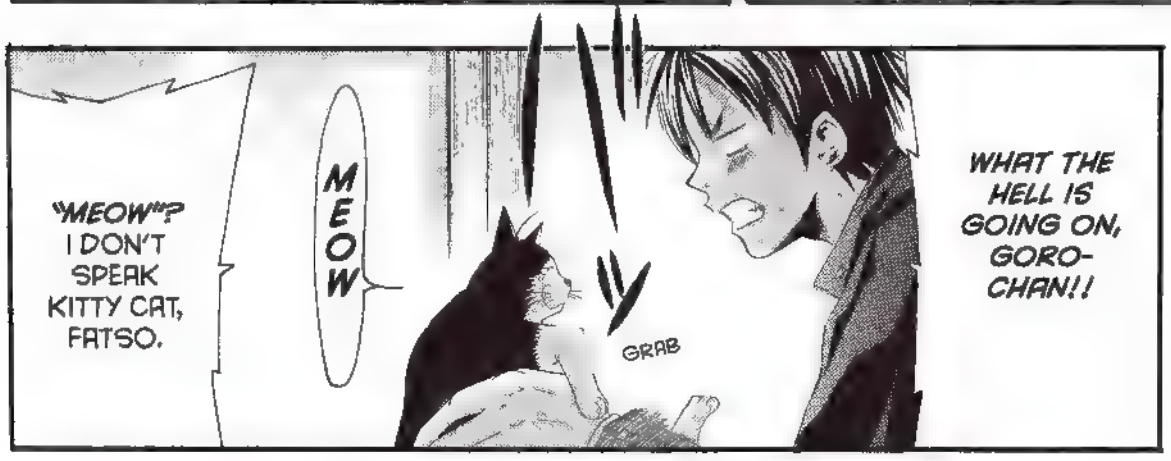
THEY ALL TURN ME DOWN THE MOMENT THEY HEAR "ONE DAY A WEEK."
SIGH... NO LUCK TODAY EITHER.

CLOPPA
CLOPPA

UH... IS ASAHINA BACK YET?
DINNER WILL BE READY SOON. WHY DON'T YOU GO CHANGE?
AH... YEAH, HEY.
AH, YOU'RE BACK, YAMATO-KUN.
SLIDE
A GIRL NAMED AMAMI-SAN CAME OVER A LITTLE BIT AGO.
I TOLD HER THAT SUZUKA-CHAN WASN'T HOME YET, AND SHE SAID SHE'D WAIT FOR HER IN THE BATH.
I THINK SHE'S TALKING TO HER FRIEND IN THE BATH.
ASAHINA BATHS
HUH? WHAT FRIEND?
WHAT?
.....

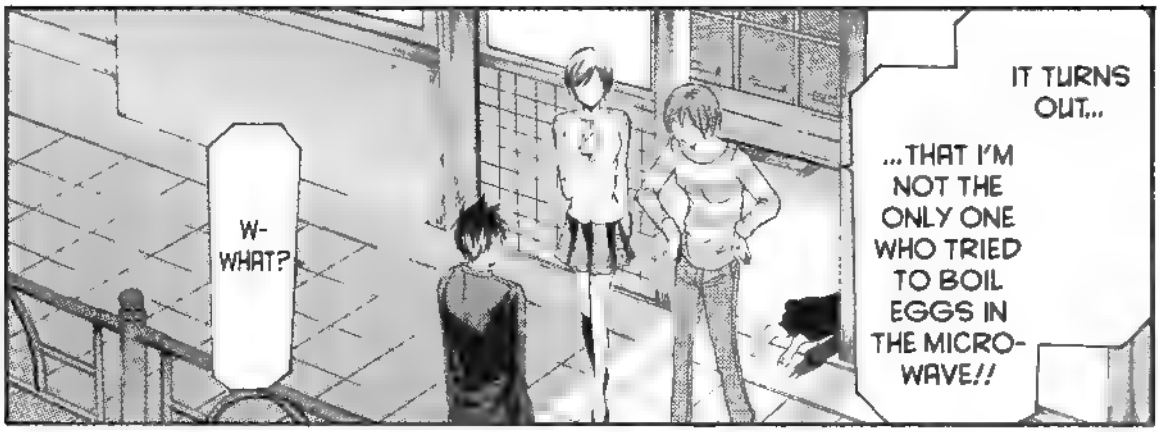

ASAHIYU BATHS

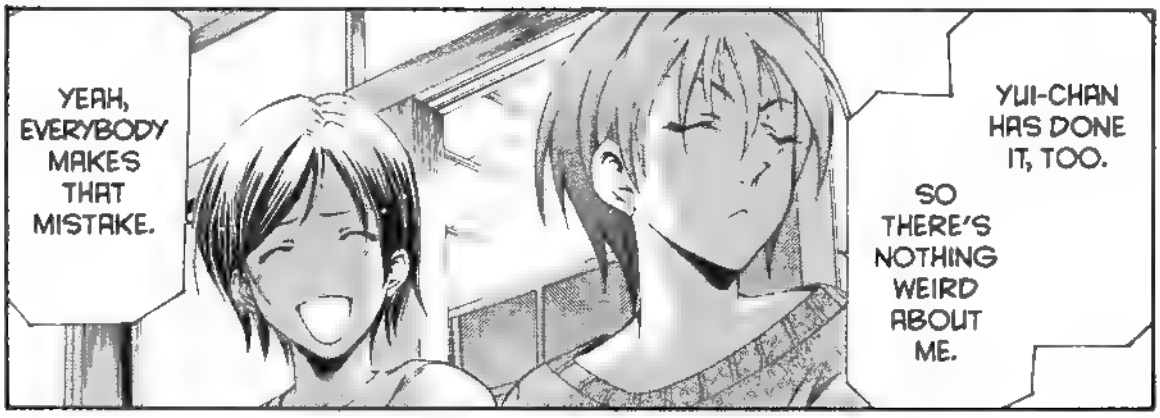
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
WHAT THE HELL? WHAT IS YUI-CHAN DOING HERE?
AND WHY WOULD SHE BE TALKING TO ASAHINA?


MEOW
GRAB
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON, GORO-CHAN!!
"MEOW"? I DON'T SPEAK KITTY CAT, FATSO.

SLIDE
?
THANKS FOR LETTING ME VISIT.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THIS IS CRAZY.
WHAT THE HELL IS TAKING THEM SO LONG?

AH...
AND ASAHINA...
Y-YUI-CHAN...
Y-YE—
YES?
HEY, YAMATO-KUN!!


W-WHAT?
IT TURNS OUT...
...THAT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO TRIED TO BOIL EGGS IN THE MICRO-WAVE!!


YEAH, EVERYBODY MAKES THAT MISTAKE.
YUI-CHAN HAS DONE IT, TOO.
SO THERE'S NOTHING WEIRD ABOUT ME.

NOT AT ALL. I LOVE TAKING LONG BATHS.
SORRY, IF I TALKED YOUR EAR OFF.
I HOPE I DIDN'T MAKE YOU STAY IN TOO LONG.
.....

WHAT... OH...
UM... RIGHT... OKAY THEN...

AH... UH...
TRUST ME, I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERY-THING.
WELL, BYE.
GOOD NIGHT, SUZUKA-CHAN.
I'LL E-MAIL YOU LATER!
OKAY, ME, TOO.
.....
WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU'VE HAD A WEIRD LOOK ON YOUR FACE THIS WHOLE TIME.
W-WELL, Y-YOU GUYS WERE...
YUI-CHAN IS REALLY COOL!
WHAT?
SEE YA LATER!
WE TOTALLY HIT IT OFF.

BUT...
WHAT THE HELL WAS SHE DOING HERE?

UH.... OH YEAH?
HEH HEH
ESPECIALLY WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT COOKING. SHE'S JUST LIKE ME.

YOU CAN WORK AT YUI-CHAN'S PLACE IF YOU WANT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

HEY, YAMATO-KUN...
Y-YEAH?

IS THAT WHY YUI-CHAN CAME HERE?
WHAT...
D-DID SHE TELL YOU WHY?
WHAT?
D-DID YUI-CHAN...
...SAY ANY-THING... ABOUT ME?
NOT REALLY... SHE JUST TOLD ME YOU WERE LOOKING FOR A JOB WHERE YOU ONLY HAD TO WORK ONE DAY A WEEK.
.....
NO... SHE DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING ABOUT THAT.
OH... UHHH...
THEN WHY THE HELL IS SHE TELLING ME THAT I CAN WORK AT YUI-CHAN'S?

JUST MAKE SURE TO GIVE ME YOUR NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS, ONCE YOU GET YOUR COMPUTER...
OKAY?
WHAT...
BLUSH
.....!?
SO SHE TOLD YOU EVERY-THING!!
NO, SHE DIDN'T.

PHEW...
パラッ
FLIP

I HOPE HE'S OKAY.
HE'D BETTER NOT SCREW THINGS UP.

IT'S YAMATO-KUN'S FIRST DAY AT WORK...
Conversational English
WORKBOOK

SUZUKA

#100 THE VERY FIRST DAY
天晃
SUZUKA

IT'S FINE!
YOU LOOK GREAT, YAMATO-KUN.
R-REALLY?
I LOOK LIKE I'M DRESSED FOR SOME WEIRD PARTY OR SOME-THING.
NO, YOU DON'T.
afé & Restaurant
Amami
AH, LOOKING SMART, YAMATO-KUN.
R-REALLY?
THANKS.
RIGHT?

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WAIT ON CUSTOMERS WITH YUI
IT'S YOUR FIRST DAY, SO JUST TAKE IT EASY
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, JUST ASK ME. I'M YOUR SENPAI NOW.
WAIT...
NOOB.
...ON CUS TOMERS?

WHAT?
HOPE YOU CAN HANDLE THE JOB....
O-OKAY... I WILL...
STAND UP STRAIGHT AND LOOK ALIVE.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT FIRING YOU!
I-I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN. I PROMISE TO STAND UP STRAIGHT FROM NOW ON. PLEASE DON'T FIRE ME!!
FWUMP
ALL RIGHT, YUI. YOU'RE IN CHARGE. I'VE GOTTA GET EVERY-THING READY.
OKAY!
I REALLY NEED TO BUY A COM-PUTER.
SORRY, DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL DO FINE.
GEEZ, DAD. DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT. HE CAN'T TELL YOU'RE JOKING.

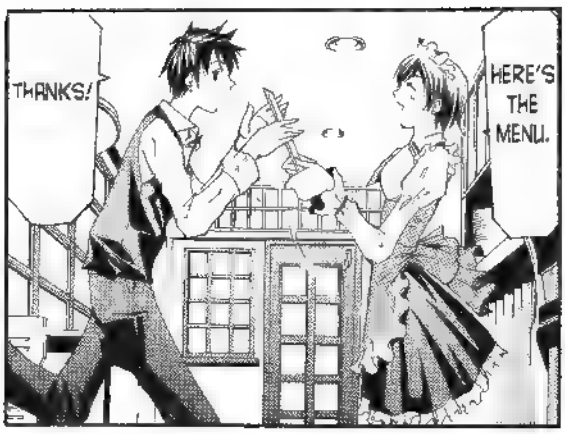
SHUDDER
カチン
コチン
SHUDDER
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE ONLY JOB I'VE EVER HAD HAS BEEN CLEANING THE BATHS...

I HAVE TO WORK EXTRA HARD AND PROVE TO THEM THAT I CAN HANDLE THIS.
I CAN'T SCREW THIS UP!!

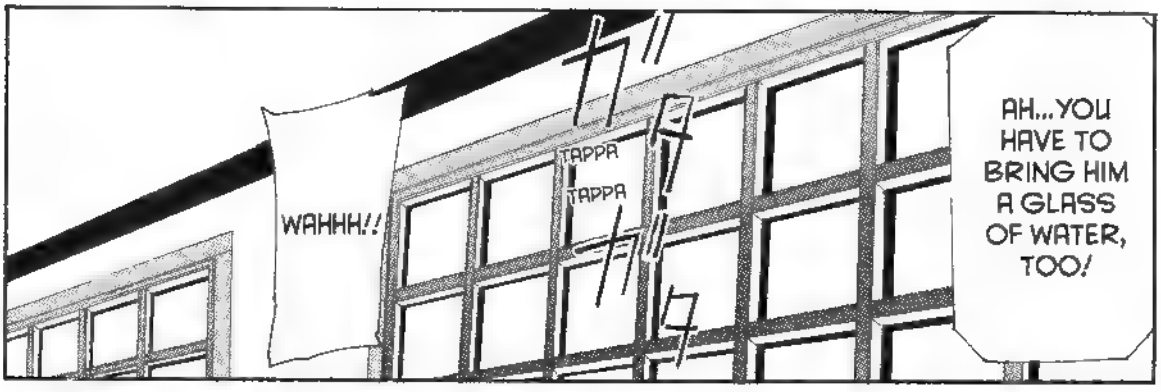
カラン
DING...
DONG
カラン
HELLO!
...CUS-TOMER.
A...

YOU LOOK SO STIFF, YAMATO-KUN. YOU WON'T LAST A DAY UNLESS YOU RELAX A LITTLE.
O-OKAY.
SO...

SWUP
O-OKAY.
GO WAIT ON THEM!
UH... WHERE'S THE USUAL WAIT-RESS?
HUH??
AH...MY NAME IS YAMATO AKITSUKI. I'M NEW HERE!!
H-HELLO...
HEH...
UH-HUH... OKAY.
CLICK
H-HOW ARE YOU TODAY?


THANKS!
HERE'S THE MENU.

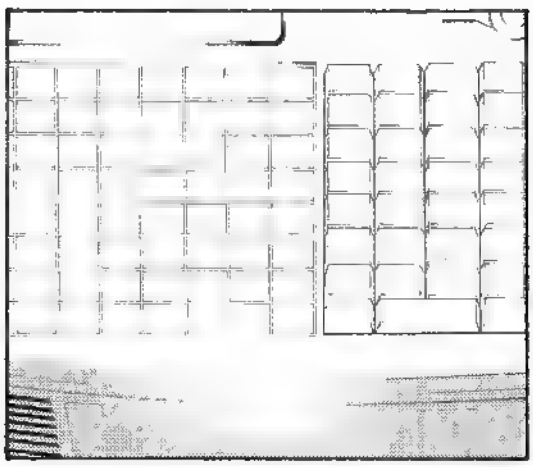
AAHHH!! SORRY ABOUT THAT!!
ARE YOU GONNA GIVE ME A MENU OR WHAT?


WAHHH!!
TAPPA
TAPPA
AH...YOU HAVE TO BRING HIM A GLASS OF WATER, TOO!

CHATTER
CHATTER

HEY, TAKE IT EASY, MAN...
HEE HEE
SORRY, SORRY!!

YAMATO-KUN. QUIT SPACING OUT.
TAKE THIS TO TABLE THREE.
CLANK
AH... OKAY!
SPACING OUT
UWAAH! IT'S SO CROWDED.
'CAUSE IT'S SUNDAY I GUESS.
HERE'S YOUR ICED-TEA!!
WHAT?
I DIDN'T ORDER ICED-TEA.
HUH?
THAT'S TABLE NUMBER TWO, YAMATO-KUN!!
AH... SORRY ABOUT THAT...
CRASH
WAAHH!!
.....!!
CRASH
WAAHHH!!



A-ALL RIGHT!!
I'LL HANDLE THIS SECTION, YAMATO-K.N. GO WORK THE CASH REGISTER.
CHECK PLEASE.

C'MON, HURRY IT UP, WILL YOU?
GUESS THAT WAS THE WRONG BUT-TON.
OOPS... LET'S SEE HERE.
UH...

WAAHH!! I FORGOT HOW MUCH CHANGE I WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE YOU.
SHOCK

BEEP
CLICK

AND COULD YOU GIVE ME A RECEIPT? JUST MAKE IT OUT TO "HE-SAMA."
TAP
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I'LL JUST USE THE CAL-CULATOR.

AH... WHAT'S THE KANJI FOR THAT?
UE? THEY TEACH YOU THAT IN FIRST GRADE. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE UE?
SORRY, I'M NEW HERE, SO...
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANY-THING?
UE-SAMA?
EXCUSE ME?
UH...DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW HOW TO WRITE A RECEIPT?
OH, C'MON, THIS IS GETTING RIDICU-LOUS!
I'M IN A HURRY.
AH...I'M REALLY SORRY!!
YUI-CHAN!! HELP!!
TAPPA
TAPPA
IT'S OKAY, YAMATO-KUN. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!!

TSSSS
GUESS I CAN'T BLAME 'EM. ALL I DID WAS GET IN THE WAY.
SO NOW I'M THE DISH-WASHER.
A CAFÉ? ARE YOU SURE?
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT, YAMATO-KUN?
.....
I GUESS I JUST WASN'T MADE FOR THIS KINDA JOB.
NO!
I CAN'T THINK LIKE THAT.

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD OR YOU WON'T LAST. JUST RELAX.
N-NO, I'M FINE!!
YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK FIRST, SIR.
ARE YOU TIRED, YAMATO-KUN?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.
I HAVEN'T BEEN ANY HELP AT ALL!!
NO, I CAN'T!!
WAAA!!
SLIP
WE'RE OUT OF CLEAN PLATES. HURRY UP, YAMATO-KUN!
AH... SORRY!
A-ARE YOU OKAY? SORRY. THAT WAS MY FAULT FOR RUSHING YOU.
.....
CRASH

Café & Restaurant
Amami

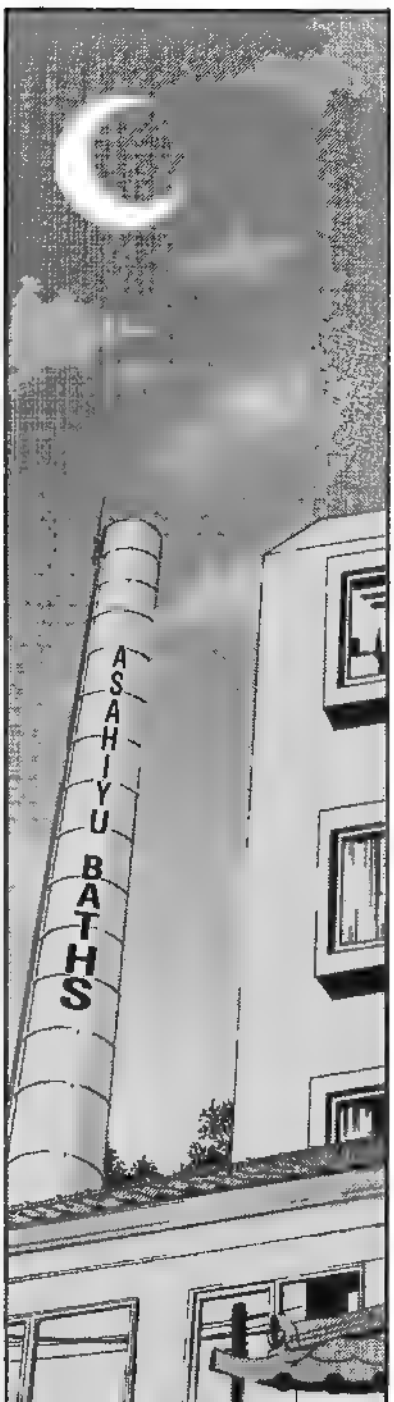
OKAY...
GOOD WORK TODAY. I MADE SOME TEA. HOW ABOUT TAKING A LITTLE BREAK.

CLINK
WELL...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

WHAT...? WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
BECAUSE... HE BROKE SO MANY DISHES TODAY...
DAD...
ARE YOU MAD AT YAMATO-KUN?
SURE... AND...
R-REALLY?
HE JUST HAD THE FIRST DAY JITTERS.
YOU SEEM AWFULLY HAPPY WHEN HE'S AROUND.
I'LL GIVE HIM A LITTLE TIME. I CAN SEE THAT HE REALLY WANTS TO HELP OUT.
.....

S-STOP IT, DAD!!
YAMATO-KUN ALREADY HAS A GIRLFRIEND!!
OH. TOUGH LUCK.
SHUT UP, DAD!!

THERE YOU GO.
SWAP
パチ
YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ. WHO GETS HURT THAT BAD JUST FROM WORKING AT A CAFÉ?


ASAHIYU BATHS

.....
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

IT'S ONLY HARD 'CAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ.
SHUT UP!
OH, COME ON.
MAN, I'M BEAT.
NOTHING'S HARDER THAN THE FIRST DAY OF A NEW JOB.
FALUMP
I HOPE YOU DON'T GET FIRED.
GEEZ, WHAT'S NEXT WEEK GONNA BE LIKE?
S-SAY SOME-THING. WHAT'S WITH YOU? ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
.....

DID YOU FALL ASLEEP?
DRIBBLE
ズル
ズル…
ZZZZ
……
I'M SORRY…
MUMBLE MUMBLE
SLEEP TIGHT...
YAMATO-KUN.

#101 SKILLS

SUZUKA

EXCUSE ME, COULD I GET A GLASS OF WATER?
AH... SURE.
CAN I GET THE CHECK?
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

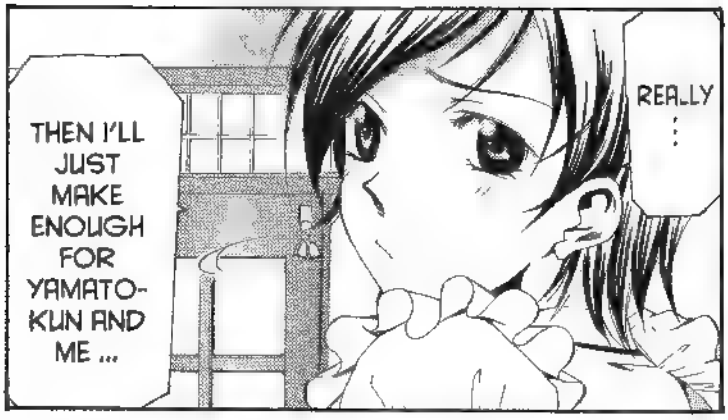
Café & Restaurant
Amami

PHEW...
FINALLY, THINGS HAVE QUIETED DOWN A LITTLE.
THANKS FOR WORKING ALL DAY, YAMATO-KUN! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SPRING BREAK...
NO PROBLEM! DIDN'T HAVE PRACTICE TODAY ANYWAY.
YOU'RE REALLY GETTING THE HANG OF WORKING HERE.
YOU'RE A BIG HELP.
THANK YOU.
WELL, I'M STILL TRYING TO GET A FEEL FOR THINGS, BUT...

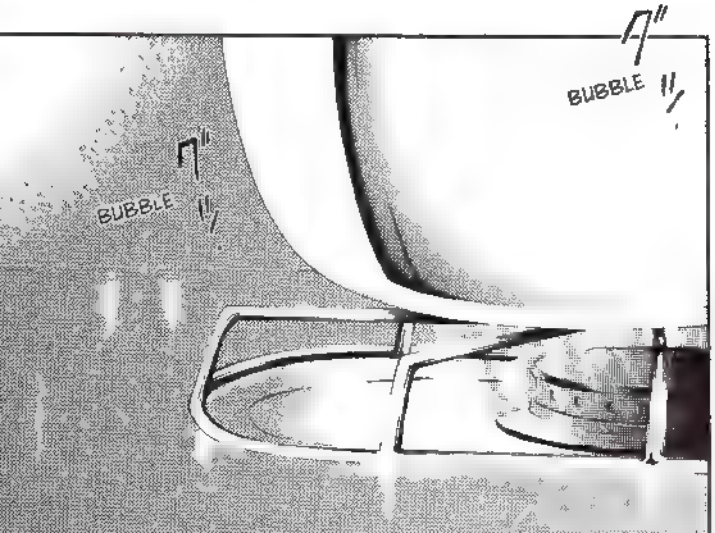
I'LL FIX SOME LUNCH FOR YOU GUYS, NOW THAT I'VE GOT SOME TIME.
WHAT?
.....?

WELL...WHY DON'T I HANG UP THE CLOSED SIGN FOR NOW AND YOU GUYS CAN RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR MEAL TOGETHER.
I'LL GO DO SOME SHOPPING WHILE YOU EAT!!

OH... D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I KNOW YOU WANT TO COOK FOR YAMATO-KUN, BUT JUST RELAX. I'LL MAKE US SOME LUNCH LIKE I ALWAYS DO.
FWISH
I CAN MAKE IT. WE PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANY MORE CUS-TOMERS ANYWAY.


REALLY...
THEN I'LL JUST MAKE ENOUGH FOR YAMATO-KUN AND ME ...

HUH?
SORRY, YAMATO-KUN... MY BLOOD PRESSURE HAS BEEN A LITTLE HIGH LATELY, SO...



I WONDER WHAT SHE'S MAKING.

HERE YOU GO, YAMATO-KUN!
STEP
ALL RIGHT! FINALLY. I'M STARVING!!
AH...
PLUNK
YOU CAN HAVE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!

SLOP

MINE-STRONE SOUP..?
WHY IS THERE KONBU SEA-WEED IN IT?
AND WHAT'S WITH THE FISH HEADS AND BONES AND STUFF?
TA-DA!! IT'S MINESTRONE SOUP!!
HAVE A SEAT.
IT'S NOT MUCH OF A SECRET. THEY'RE ALL STICKING OUT.
TEE-HEE. YOU NO-TICED?
IT'S MY SECRET INGREDI-ENT!!
SHE'S EATING IT...
.....
YUM
CHOMP CHOMP
W-WELL, MAYBE IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT LOOKS!!
KONBU REALLY IS AMAZING!!
KONBU BROTH REALLY DOES GO WELL WITH EVERY-THING.
THIS IS SO GOOD!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, YAMATO-KUN!! I'M REALLY SORRY!!

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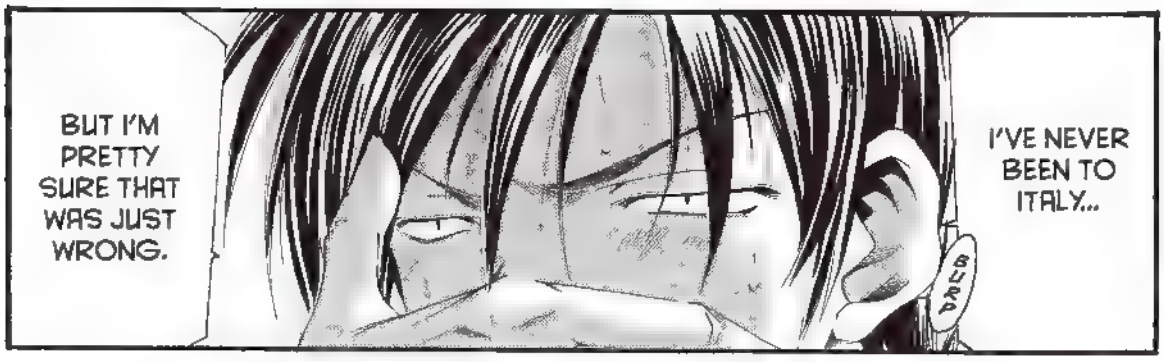
Amami


BUT I'M PRETTY SURE THAT WAS JUST WRONG.
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ITALY...
BURP

ヒョイ
FWUP
HEY! QUIT SLACKING OFF, YOU TWO!

WELL, SHE'S NOT TOO PICKY WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
WHAT CAN I SAY... HERE... WANT SOME HEART-BURN TABLETS?

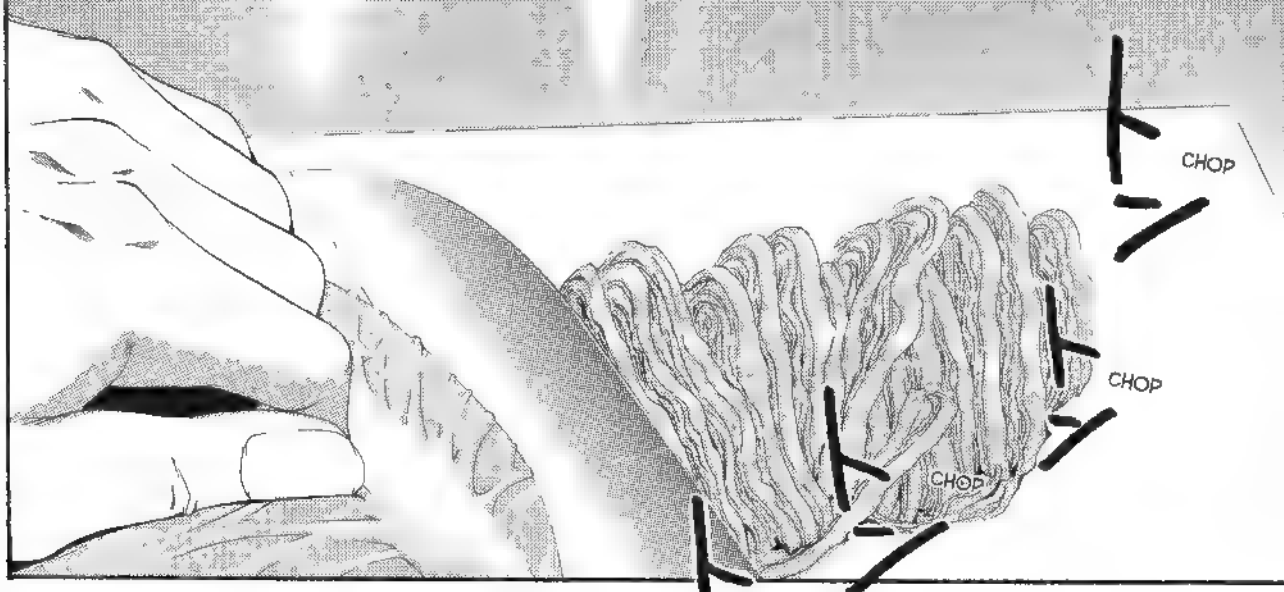
?
YOU KNOW, IT'S PRETTY SLOW TODAY, SO...
WHY DON'T I MAKE YOU DINNER, TOO?
FLIP
FLIP

IT'S OKAY, YAMATO-KUN. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.
AH... SORRY...

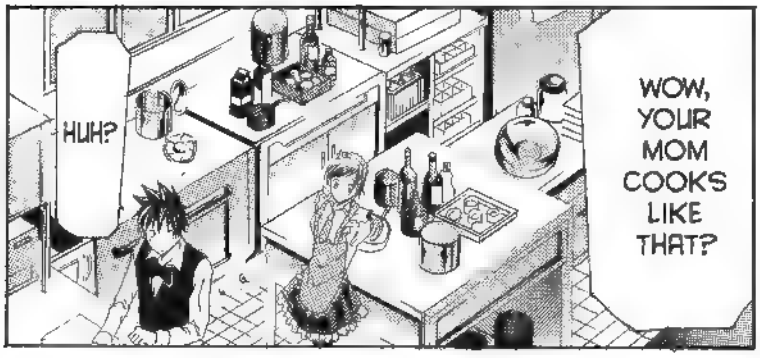
REALLY?
CAN YOU COOK?

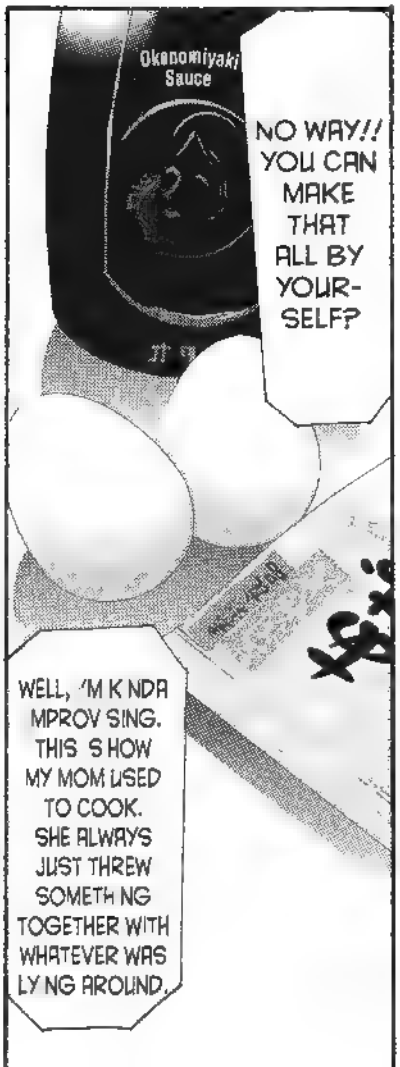
SURE I CAN!! NO PROBLEM. AND I REALLY WANT YOU TO TRY MY COOKING.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!! WHY DON'T YOU LET HIM COOK, YU?
A-ALL RIGHT... IF YOU SAY SO...

I'LL MAKE DINNER!!
YEAH! THAT'S AN EX-CELLENT IDEA!!
FWUP


CHOP
CHOP
CHOP

OKONOMIYAKI!
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
WOW. YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THAT, YAMATO-KUN!


HUH?
WOW, YOUR MOM COOKS LIKE THAT?


Okonomiyaki Sauce
NO WAY!! YOU CAN MAKE THAT ALL BY YOURSELF?
WELL, I'M KINDA IMPROVISING. THIS IS HOW MY MOM USED TO COOK. SHE ALWAYS JUST THREW SOMETHING TOGETHER WITH WHATEVER WAS LYING AROUND.

WELL...
ACTUALLY...

AH... YEAH, I GUESS MY FAMILY IS KINDA WEIRD.
I'M SURE YOUR MOM IS A MUCH BETTER COOK.

MY MOM PASSED AWAY, SO...
SHE DIED RIGHT AFTER I WAS BORN...
SHE ALWAYS HAD A WEAK CONSTI-TUTION, AND...
OH...
OH... UH...
I'M SORRY...

WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?
SHE...
...DOESN'T SEEM BOTHERED BY IT, SO...
WELL... UH...
YOU'RE RIGHT... NEVER MIND...
.....?
YOU'RE FUNNY.
AH... OH YEAH!
DO YOU HAVE OKO-NOMIYAKI SAUCE AND AO-NORI SEAWEED FLAKES?
HUH...? UH...LET'S SEE...

NO, I WANT TO DO THIS RIGHT.
YOU JUST WAIT HERE, OKAY?
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN SHE COULDN'T COOK. SHE TRIED TO BOIL EGGS IN THE MICROWAVE JUST LIKE ASAHINA.
.....
CAN YOU USE THIS WORCES-TERSHIRE SAUCE AND PARSLEY INSTEAD? I'VE GOT SOME DRIED BASIL, TOO.
OH...YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
I'LL GO RUN TO THE STORE AND BUY SOME.
AH...
KONBU
OH AND... JUST SO YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T PUT KONBU SEAWEED IN OKONOMI-YAKI.
OKAY.
YEP, SHE'S AT *LEAST* AS BAD AS ASAHINA WHEN IT COMES TO COOKING.
PLEASE, DON'T START COOKING ANYTHING TILL I GET BACK, OKAY?
YOU SAW IT?

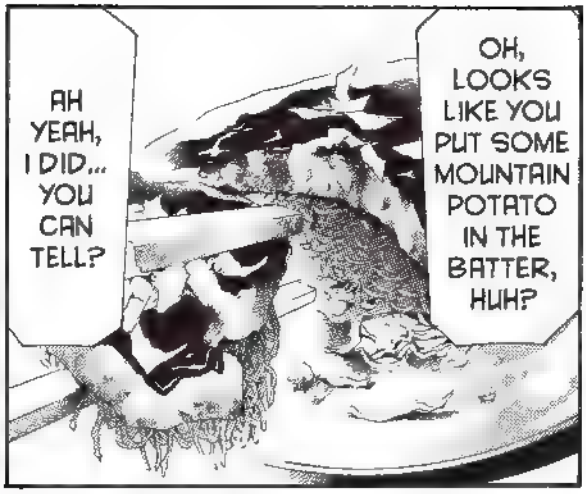
YES, IT DOES LOOK PRETTY GOOD.
I'M IM-PRESSED.
HUH? ...REALLY?

S-SURE.
HEY, CAN I EAT NOW, PLEASE?

IT LOOKS AMAZING!!
WOW...

Café & Restau
Amami
AH, YOU, TOO, BOSS. GO AHEAD AND START.
AH, THANK YOU. I WILL.
KYAA!
THIS IS SO GOOD!!
Y-YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
GLARE
REALLY?
I THINK IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN WHAT I MADE.
UH.. YEAH..?
THIS REALLY IS EXCELLENT.
...ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT YOU DIDN'T USE A RECIPE.
AH... THANKS.

YOU'RE AMAZING, YAMATO-KUN.
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD COOK!


OH, LOOKS LIKE YOU PUT SOME MOUNTAIN POTATO IN THE BATTER, HUH?
AH YEAH, I DID... YOU CAN TELL?

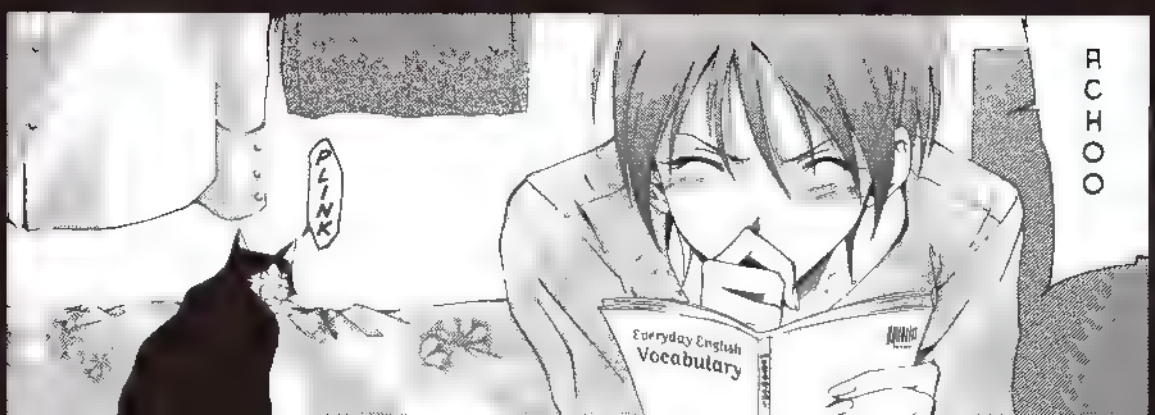
TH-THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU.
N-NOBODY'S EVER COMPLIMENTED ME LIKE THIS BEFORE.

YEAH. I WANNA TRY MORE OF YAMATO-KUN'S COOKING.
MAYBE I'LL PUT YAMATO-KUN IN CHARGE OF MAKING LUNCH FROM NOW ON.

R-REALLY?
WELL, I GUESS I COULD GIVE IT A TRY...!!
AH...I ALMOST FORGOT! THE DESSERT!!
カタッ SWUP
WHAT...?
ヒクッ BLINK
TA-DA! I HAD SOME FREE TIME, SO I MADE THIS.
IT'S ICE CREAM!!
WAHHH...
WHAT ARE THOSE LITTLE BITS IN THERE, CHOCOLATE CHIPS?
IT'S KONBU!!
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE.

SAY "AHH"!
C'MON, JUST TASTE IT!
N-NO THANKS.
IT'S REALLY REFRESH-ING!!

S-SHE'S ACTUALLY...
IT'S SALTY!!
...WORSE THAN ASAHINA!!
天晃

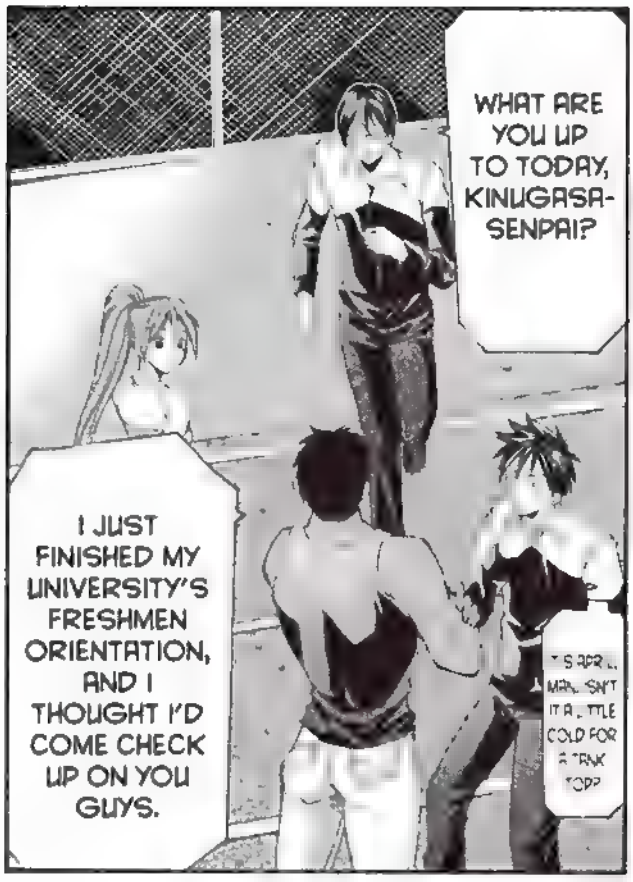

ACHOO
BLINK
Everyday English Vocabulary

#102 RELIEF
SUZUKA

MY NAME IS SOUICHI MIYAMOTO.
I'M THE CAPTAIN OF THE AOBA HIGH SCHOOL TRACK TEAM.

LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR. I DON'T BELIEVE IN ROBOTIC, MILITARY-STYLE TRAINING.
OUR TRAINING MAY BE TOUGH.
BUT IF WE CAN GET JUST ONE MORE ATHLETE INTO THIS SUMMER'S I.H. MEET, THEN IT'LL ALL BE WORTH IT. SO I WANT YOU GUYS TO GIVE IT EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT, OKAY?
YEAH!

I GUESS HE'S HAPPY TO SEE ALL THESE NEW FRESHMEN.
YEAH, MAYBE.
OH YEAH?
CAPTAIN MIYAMOTO IS ALL FIRED UP TODAY.
C'MON... YAMATO-KUN. YOU'D BETTER LOOK ALIVE.
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A SOPHOMORE NOW, DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN SLACK OFF. YOU DON'T WANNA SEE THE FRESHMEN PASS YOU BY NOW DO YA?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...
BUT ASAHINA ISN'T GONNA BE IN I.H. THIS YEAR AND...
THWAP
?


WHAT ARE YOU UP TO TODAY, KINUGASA-SENPAI?
I JUST FINISHED MY UNIVERSITY'S FRESHMEN ORIENTATION, AND I THOUGHT I'D COME CHECK UP ON YOU GUYS.
T-SAPRIL, ISN'T IT A LITTLE COLD FOR A TANK TOP?

ESPECIALLY YOU, YAMATO. I KNOW YOU'LL START SLACKING IF I DON'T KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.
SQUISH
SQUISH
I'M NOT SLACKING OFF!! I'M NOT!

WHAT THE HELL KIND OF ATTITUDE IS THAT, YOU WUSS!
CRUSH
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?

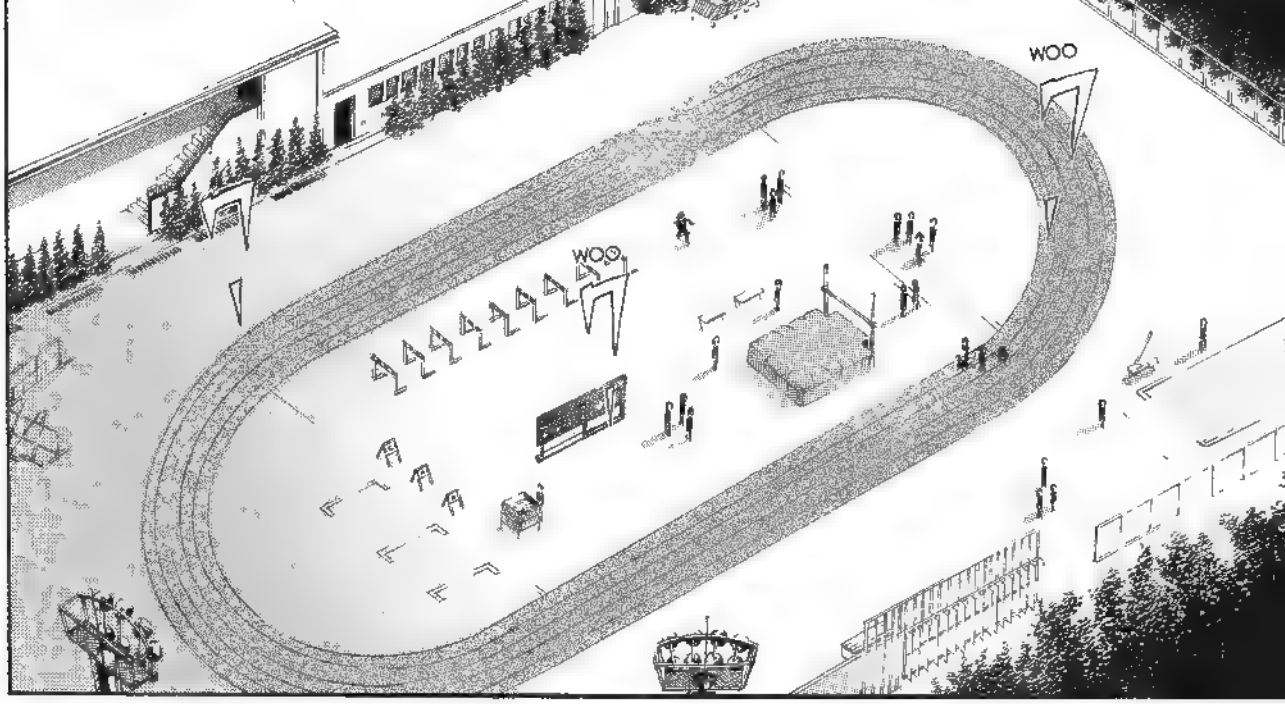
HE DOESN'T EVEN GO TO SCHOOL HERE ANYMORE...
UHH.....
LISTEN! ASAHINA'S GONNA BE STUDYING ABROAD, SO...
I NEED YOU IN THE I.H. MEET THIS YEAR FOR SURE!!

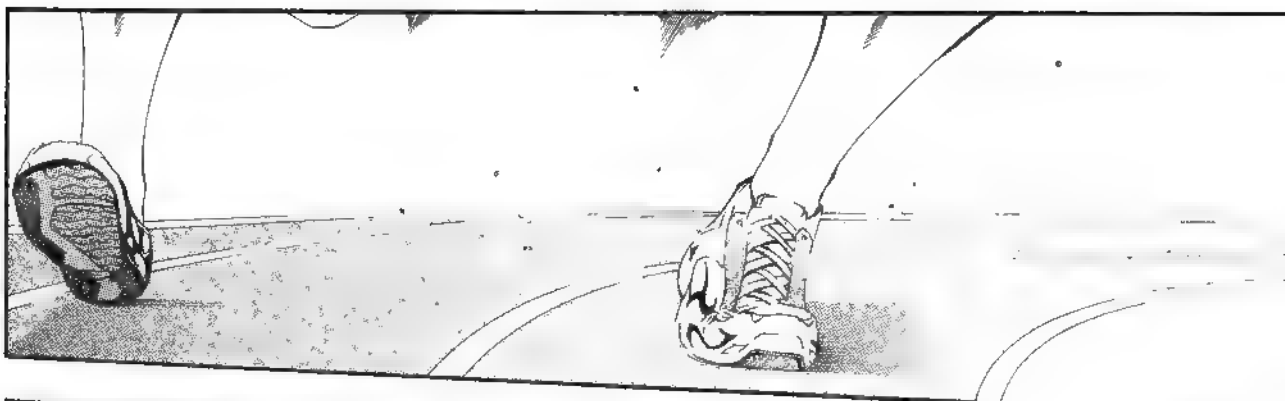
THEY'RE DOING A SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION WITH ALL THE ATHLETES WHO ARE GOING ABROAD.
SO SHE'S OVER AT THE ADIREX COM-PANY'S TRAIN-ING FIELD TODAY.

HMMM?
HEY, WHERE IS ASAHINA ANYWAY? I DON'T SEE HER.

.....
YA HEAR THAT? WHILE YOU'RE HERE SLACKING OFF, SHE'S PUSHING HERSELF HARDER AND HARDER.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.


WOO
WOO

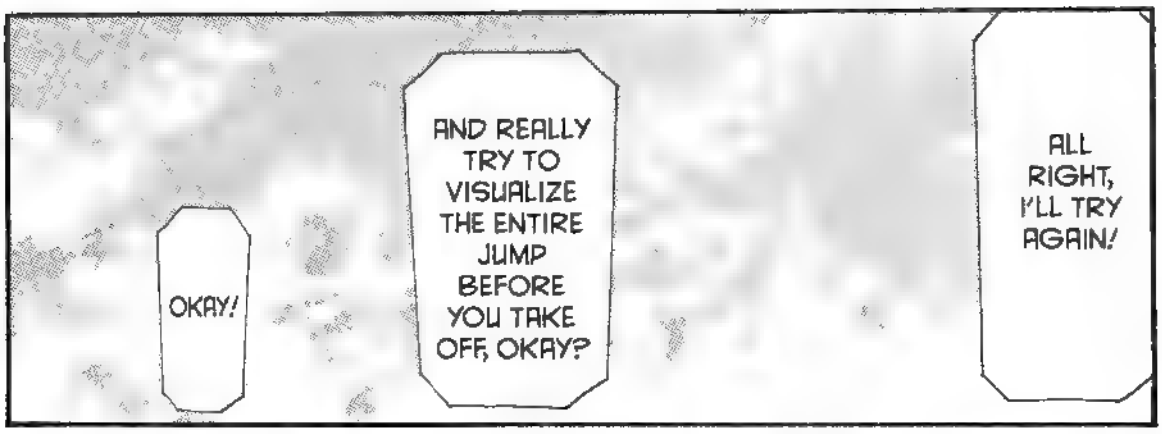


HH
P
FWEESH
P
STEP
STEP

PHEW...

AH...
I WAS WATCHING YOUR JUMP, AND I THINK YOU'RE RELYING TOO MUCH ON SPEED,...
...AT THE EXPENSE OF YOUR RHYTHM.
TRY TO CONCENTRATE A LITTLE MORE ON RHYTHM AS YOU JUMP.

GOT A SECOND, ASAHINA-SAN?
AH... SURE!


ALL RIGHT, I'LL TRY AGAIN!
AND REALLY TRY TO VISUALIZE THE ENTIRE JUMP BEFORE YOU TAKE OFF, OKAY?
OKAY!

ヒョコ
YOINK

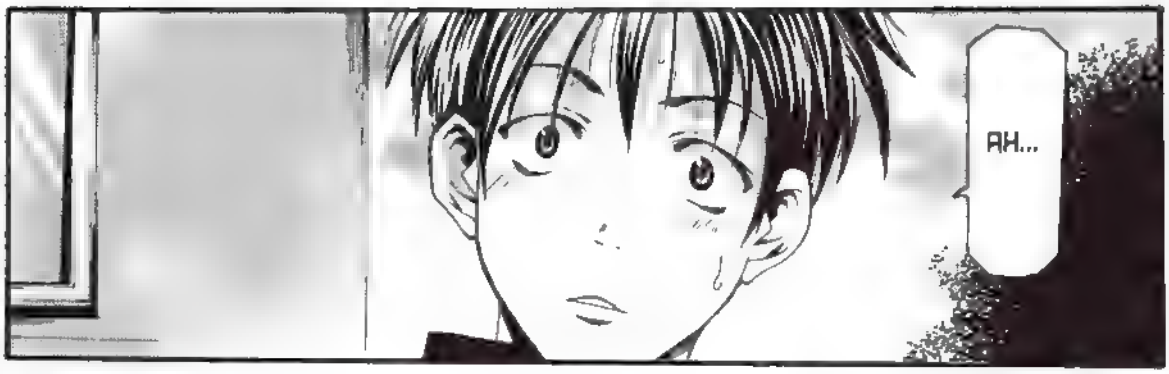
DAMN...
THEY'VE GOT SOME REALLY AMAZING ATHLETES HERE.

WOW...
SO, THIS IS WHERE ASAHINA'S BEEN PRACTIC-ING...

HUH?
ARE THEY GOING ABROAD, TOO?
THESE ARE ALL TOP-RANKING GUYS FROM LAST YEAR'S I.H. MEET.
WELL...
TCH
I GUESS HE *WOULD* BE HERE. I MEAN, HE DID WIN THE 100-METER RUN.
.....
DAMN...I HOPE ASAHINA CAN HOLD HER OWN AGAINST ALL THESE GUYS.
WHOOSH
ARIMA...

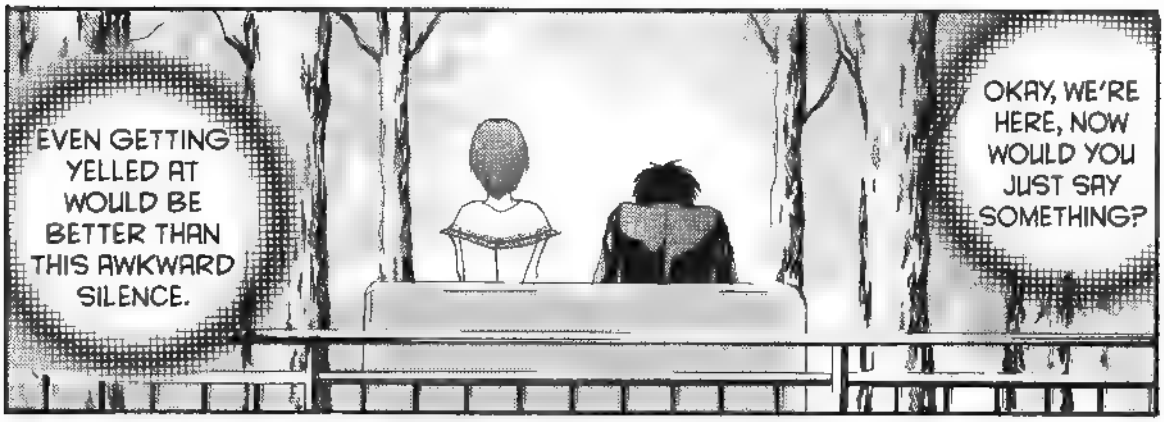
PWUFF

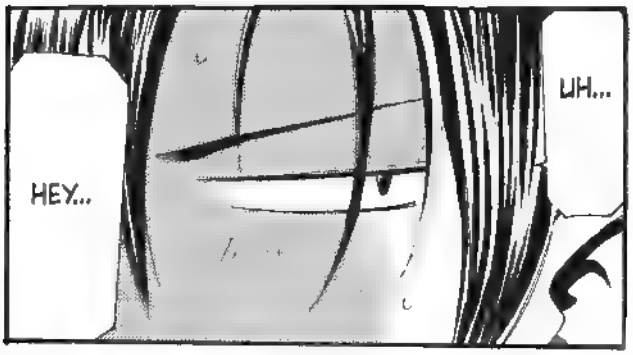
SHE'S A TOP-CLASS ATHLETE. I SHOULDN'T EVEN WORRY ABOUT HER.
BUT, I'D BETTER GET GOING BEFORE SHE CATCHES ME SPYING ON HER LIKE THIS.
WHAT AM I THINK-ING...?
SHE'LL BE FINE.


AH...

EYE CLINIC NARIMASU
CLOPPA

MAYBE SHE'S ANNOYED THAT I CAME OUT HERE.
WH-WHY WON'T SHE SAY ANY-THING?
コツ
CLOP
コツ
CLOP
OH, UH...
WHAT?
HEY, CAN WE STOP BY THE PARK ON OUR WAY HOME?
Hikarigaoka Park North Entrance
SURE...


EVEN GETTING YELLED AT WOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS AWKWARD SILENCE.
OKAY, WE'RE HERE, NOW WOULD YOU JUST SAY SOMETHING?


HEY...
UH...

コツン!
PLUP
HUH?

アア:
TSSSWAAA

I'M SO TIRED...

I MEAN, ALL THE OTHER ATHLETES WERE SO MUCH BETTER THAN ME.
I APPRE-CIATE HEARING EVERY-ONE'S ADVICE AND STUFF, BUT...
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW I AM...I JUST PREFER TO BE LEFT ALONE.

WHAT...?

I WAS TRYING TO ACT TOUGH SO THAT NOBODY WOULD SEE HOW NERVOUS I WAS, BUT...
AS SOON AS I SAW YOUR FACE...
...I JUST TOTALLY RELAXED AND LET GO.
AH... REALLY?
SO, EVEN ASAHINA GETS NERVOUS SOME-TIMES...
WELL...MAYBE...
...COMING HERE WASN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL...
W-WELL. DO YOU WANT TO HEAD HOME?
YOU SHOULD GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.
Y-YEAH... BUT...

CAN WE STAY HERE... JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER?
WHAT?
.....
IT'S JUST THAT
THE CHERRY BLOS-SOMS ARE...SO BEAUTI-FUL...
AH... YEAH...
...THEY SURE ARE.

#103 THE FUTURE
SUZUKA

WOW, THIS IS AMAZING!
THIS DETERGENT REALLY WORKS.
TA-DAH! LOOK AT THIS RAG, IT'S TOTALLY BLACK!
I WAS SUSPICIOUS AT FIRST, BUT THIS AMERICAN DETERGENT REALLY IS AMAZING!!
FWUPPA
WOW. YOU'RE SURE IN A GOOD MOOD, YUI-CHAN...

HUH...
NO, I'M FINE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YAMATO-KUN? YOU LOOK KINDA DOWN.
WHAT?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
OH, I KNOW.
YOU'RE SAD BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO WORK WEEKENDS AND YOU DON'T GET TO SEE SUZUKA-CHAN, RIGHT?
ASAHINA IS BUSY WITH HER ENGLISH CLASSES ANY-WAY, SO EVEN IF I WASN'T WORKING WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HANG OUT.
OH MY GOD. THIS TABLE'S TOTALLY FILTHY.
ARE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?
AH... HELLO!
DING DONG
カラン
カラン

HEY, GUYS!
WORKING HARD, AKITSUKI?

A-ASAHINA!
AND HASHIBA?
HI!

W-WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE AT YOUR ENGLISH CLASS?
AH... WELL...
IT'S MIKI'S DAY OFF, AND SHE REALLY WANTED TO COME SEE WHERE YOU WORK, SO IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
CHATTER
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M MIKI HASHIBA. I'M A FRIEND OF SUZUKA'S.
CHATTER
HI, I'M YUI AMAMI. NICE TO MEET YOU!
I-ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
TEE-HEE
REALLY? I DID?
UH... SURE...
YUI CHAN IS PRETTY CUTE, HUH?
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOAD OFF. HAVE A SEAT! WHAT CAN I GET YOU TO DRINK?
UM... I'LL HAVE A MELON SODA PLEASE.
OF COURSE NOT.
YOU'RE NOT MESSING AROUND WITH HER, ARE YOU?

HMM...
SO THIS IS WHERE YAMATO-KUN WORKS.
IT'S A REALLY NICE PLACE. IT'S SO LAID BACK.
YEAH/
WE GET REALLY BUSY IN THE EVENING THOUGH.
YAMATO KUN HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP.
HEH... WELL...
REALLY? ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT GETTING IN THE WAY, YAMATO-KUN?
NO WAY. I MADE OKONOMIYAKI FOR LUNCH AND YUI-CHAN AND HER DAD LOVED IT.
NO WAY.
I'M SERIOUS// RIGHT, YUI-CHAN?
WHY DON'T YOU MAKE SOME FOR THEM? IT'S SLOW RIGHT NOW ANYWAY.

YEAH!
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!!
ALL RIGHT!! JUST WATCH, GUYS. YOU'LL SEE.
YEAH. I'VE GOTTA SEE THIS.
CLANK
R-REALLY?
YAMATO-KUN SURE LOOKS HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
YOU'RE SO AMAZING, SUZUKA-CHAN!
YOU'RE GOING TO AMER-ICA!
I COULD NEVER DO THAT!
WHAT? WHY?
SURE, YOU COULD. LOTS OF PEOPLE STUDY ABROAD NOWADAYS.
REALLY?

WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUI-CHAN? WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO AFTER SCHOOL?
I WANT TO GET MY CULINARY LICENSE AFTER GRADUATION...
HUH... ME?
SO I CAN TAKE OVER THE CAFÉ SOMEDAY.
.....
I KNOW SHE MEANS WELL, BUT...
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA LET HER DO THAT?
WHAT?
UH... YUI...
I THINK YOU SHOULD GO OUT IN THE WORLD...YOU KNOW...GET SOME REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE.

NO WAY!
I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE!
IT'S GOOD TO TRY DIFFERENT THINGS WHILE YOU'RE YOUNG. NOTHING CAN BETTER PREPARE YOU FOR THE FUTURE.
I'M SURE YOU'LL DISCOVER ALL KINDS OF OPPORTUNITIES.
WELL, HE'S GETTING ON IN YEARS, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE SO SWEET TO YOUR DAD.
BESIDES, I COULD NEVER LEAVE YOU ALONE HERE, DAD! I'D BE WORRIED SICK!
I'LL WORK REALLY HARD AND DO ALL THE COOK-ING, TOO. YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS.
UH... THANKS...
コト
PLUNK
SO TELL ME...

WELL...THEY HAVE MUCH HIGHER STANDARDS OVER THERE.
WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO GO STUDY ABROAD?
I MEAN, YOU COULD TRAIN HERE JUST AS EASILY, RIGHT?

...THAN IF I JUST STAYED IN JAPAN.
I'M SURE I'LL GET A LOT MORE OUT OF TRAINING ABROAD...

I WAS JUST WON-DER-ING...
...IF YOU WERE IN A HURRY FOR SOME REASON.

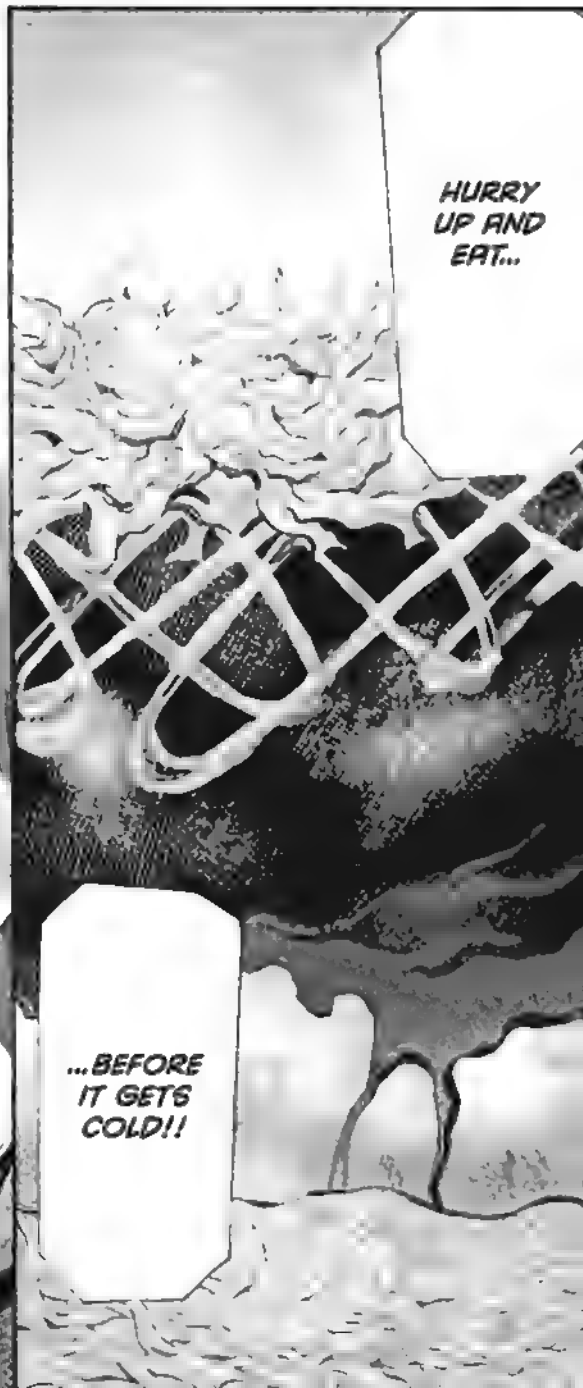
.....

BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS DO THAT AFTER YOU FINISH HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?
WELL... YEAH, I GUESS BUT...

.....
CHATTER
CHATTER
STOP BUGGING ME!!
HEY, LOOK! WHAT IS THAT, A PASTA MACHINE?
SHOW ME HOW TO USE IT?
Y-YOU PROMISE YOU WON'T TELL ANY-BODY...?
YEAH, I PROM-ISE!
PLUNK

YEP.
OH MY GOD. D-DID YOU REALLY MAKE THIS, YAMATO-KUN?

YAY! LET'S EAT!
O-OKAY...

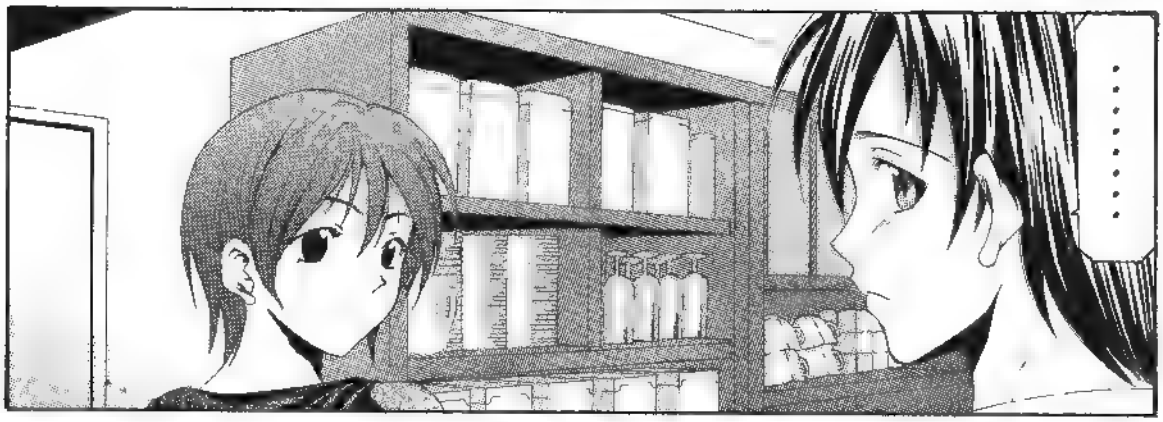

HURRY UP AND EAT...
...BEFORE IT GETS COLD!!

.....!
パクッ
CHOMP

MY DAD LIKED IT, TOO!
HEH...
WHOA, EVEN A PROFESSIONAL CHEF WAS IMPRESSED!
WOW, IT'S SUPER GOOD!!
I-IT'S REALLY GOOD...
SEE? I TOLD YOU!
I WISH YOU WOULD TAKE YOUR TRAINING THIS SERIOUSLY.
AWW, THEY'RE LIKE TWO LITTLE LOVE-BIRDS.
YEAH.
OKAY, THAT'S IT. HAND OVER THE OKONOMI-YAKI!!
CLATTER
W-WAIT... THAT'S MINE!! GIVE IT BACK. DON'T YOU WANT ME TO EAT IT?
CLATTER

YOU GUYS ARE GOING HOME ALREADY?
BUT YOU JUST GOT HERE.
SORRY. MIKI AND I ACTUALLY HAVE PLANS, SO...

Café & Restaurant
Amami


.....

I'LL COME VISIT AGAIN SOME-TIME.
YOU'LL MAKE ME LUNCH AGAIN, RIGHT?

SEE YOU LATER, YAMATO-KUN...
AH... OKAY...

WHAT...?
THAT'S GREAT, YAMATO-KUN. SHE SAID SHE'D COME BACK TO SEE YOU.

Y-YEAH, I GUESS. IF YOU REALLY LIKED IT THAT MUCH...
GEEZ, AKITSUKI... DON'T BE SO SMUG.
THANKS FOR LUNCH.
SURE, ANY-TIME!
CLOPPA
CLOPPA

SUZUKA, IT'S AFTER FOUR O'CLOCK. WHAT ABOUT YOUR ENGLISH CLASS? ARE YOU GONNA MAKE IT ON TIME?
NOPE. I'M GONNA BE LATE.

FWHOOSH
FWOOSH
FWOOSH

THANKS FOR HANGING OUT WITH ME TODAY. I'D BETTER RUN!
ALL RIGHT.
SEE YA.

GOD...
SUZUKA AND YAMATO-KUN CAN BE SUCH A PAIN IN THE BUTT.

OKAY! IT'S GONNA GET BUSY IN HERE IN A FEW MINUTES. YOU READY?
YEAH!
I'VE GOTTA WORK HARDER... JUST LIKE SUZUKA-CHAN.

YEAH, BUT SHE WORKS TOO HARD!
I MEAN, SHE'S GOING ALL THE WAY TO AMERICA, JUST TO TRAIN FOR THE HIGH JUMP...
IT'S LIKE GOING TO FRANCE OR CHINA TO LEARN HOW TO COOK OR SOME-THING...

WELL, MAYBE THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT.
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
.....

...YOU MEAN OTHER THAN TRAINING FOR THE HIGH JUMP?
.....?
CLINK
CLINK
SUZUKA-CHAN HAS OTHER REASONS FOR GOING ABROAD...
WELL, MAYBE...
PLAP
WHAT...? IT WAS JUST A FEELING THOUGH, RIGHT?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW...
I JUST HAD THAT FEELING...

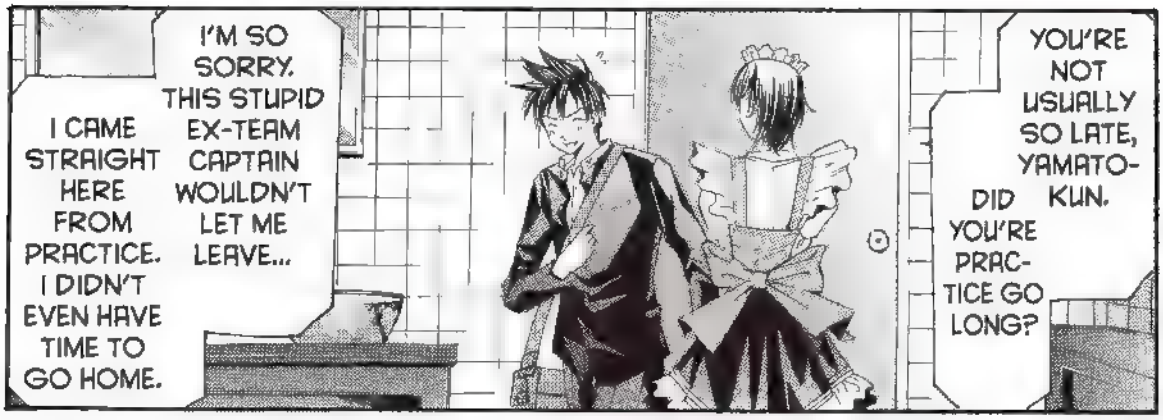
OH, YOU KNOW WHAT? I WAS THINKING ABOUT ADDING THIS NEW DRINK TO THE MENU.
WANNA TRY IT?
UH... WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A JUICE BLEND, WITH FRUITS, VEGGIES AND KONBU SEAWEED!
UM...ALL I SMELL IS THE KONBU...
OH, JUST SHUT UP AND DRINK IT!!
OKAY, FINE.
BLEAH! WAHHH... IT'S GROSS!!
天晃

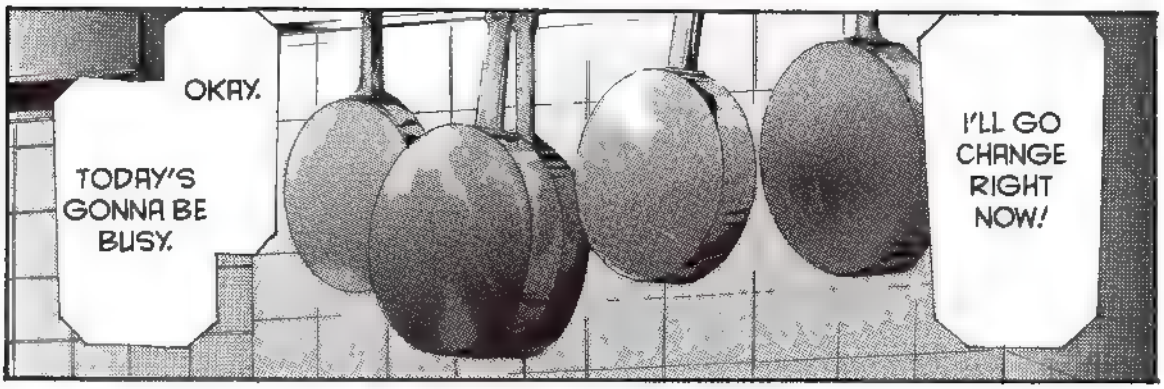
SUZUKA
Café & Restaurant
Amami
EXCUSE ME, COULD I GET ANOTHER COFFEE?
HERE'S YOUR MILK TEA!
COM-ING RIGHT UP.
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
YUI-CHAN LOOKS SO HAPPY.
HA HA... SHE SURE DOES.
A SPECIAL SOMEONE HAS BEEN COMING IN ONCE A WEEK... AND TODAY'S THE DAY.
"A SPECIAL SOME-ONE"?

#104 LAUNDRY

SUZUKA

AH!
FWAP
SORRY...
I'M LATE!!

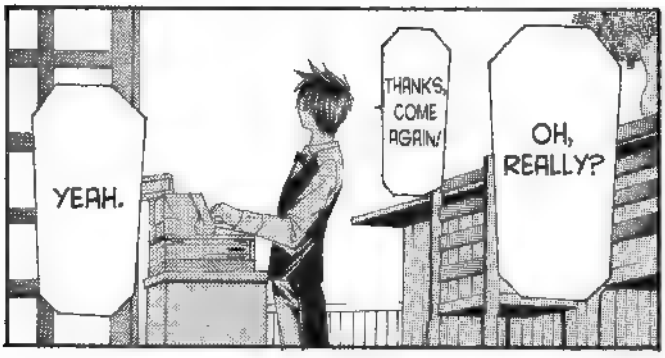

I'M SO SORRY. THIS STUPID EX-TEAM CAPTAIN WOULDN'T LET ME LEAVE...
I CAME STRAIGHT HERE FROM PRACTICE. I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO GO HOME.
YOU'RE NOT USUALLY SO LATE, YAMATO-KUN. DID YOU'RE PRAC-TICE GO LONG?


OKAY.
TODAY'S GONNA BE BUSY.
I'LL GO CHANGE RIGHT NOW!

CHATTER
CHATTER

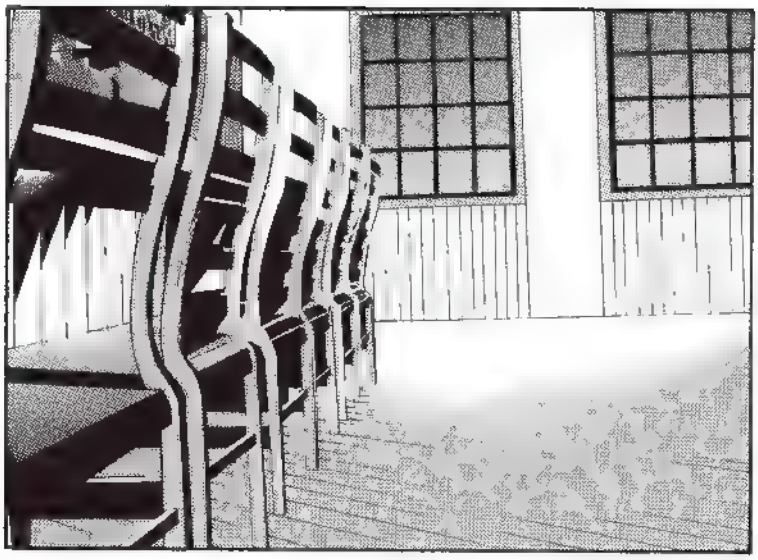
WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?
YOU TWO MAKE A CUTE COUPLE. NOW YOUR DAD CAN RETIRE AND REST EASY.

YAMATO-KUN ALREADY HAS A GIRL-FRIEND.


YEAH.
THANKS, COME AGAIN!
OH, REALLY?

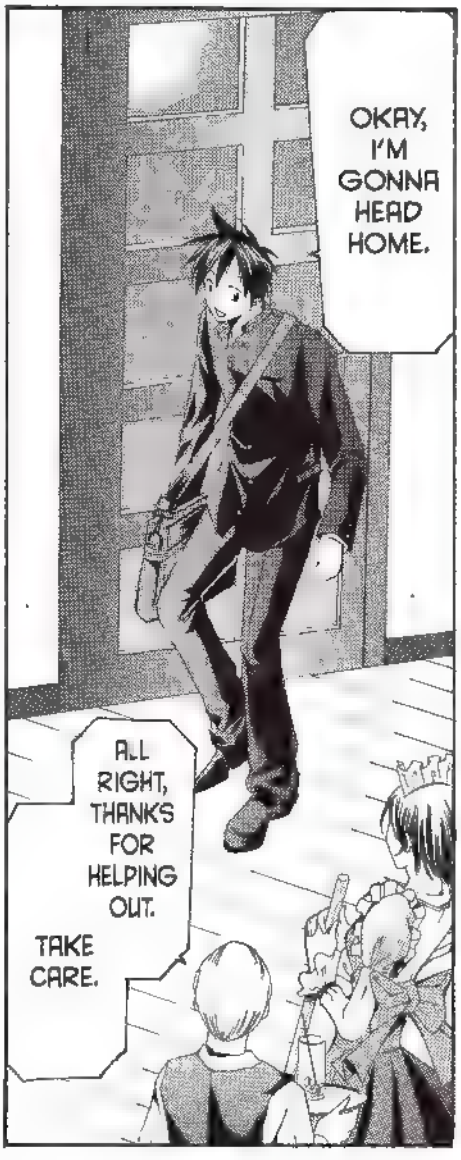
WILL YOU RUN THE CASH REGISTER PLEASE, YAMATO-KUN?
SURE.
OH, AND TABLE TWO ORDERED A COFFEE.
OKAY!

THAT'S OKAY.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK?
UH... BUT...
I'LL WASH THE DISHES.
CLINK
カチャ
AH... JUST LEAVE 'EM. I'LL DO IT.
ALL RIGHT..
THANKS.
GO AHEAD! IT'S SLOW RIGHT NOW ANYWAY.
BESIDES, I NEED TO MAKE UP FOR BEING SO LATE.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING ALONG PRETTY WELL. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DON'T ASK ME...



Café & Restaurant
Amami

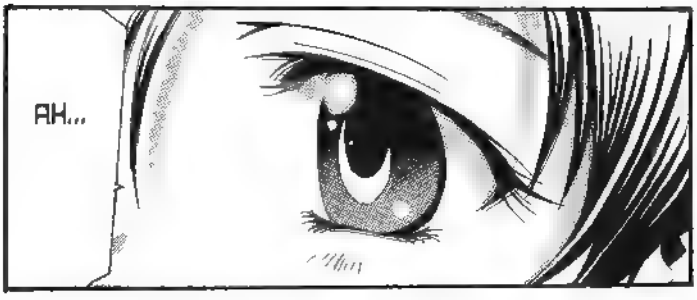
BYE.
SEE YOU LATER.


OKAY, I'M GONNA HEAD HOME.
ALL RIGHT, THANKS FOR HELPING OUT.
TAKE CARE.

YEAH! THANKS, YUI-CHAN!
CLICK
カ//
チャ
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!!

YEAH, ALL THAT TRAINING MUST'VE REALLY BUILT UP HIS STAMINA.
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT HARD WORK, HE'S STILL FULL OF ENERGY.
SLAM

カチャ
CLICK
Butter
FRUIT


AH...

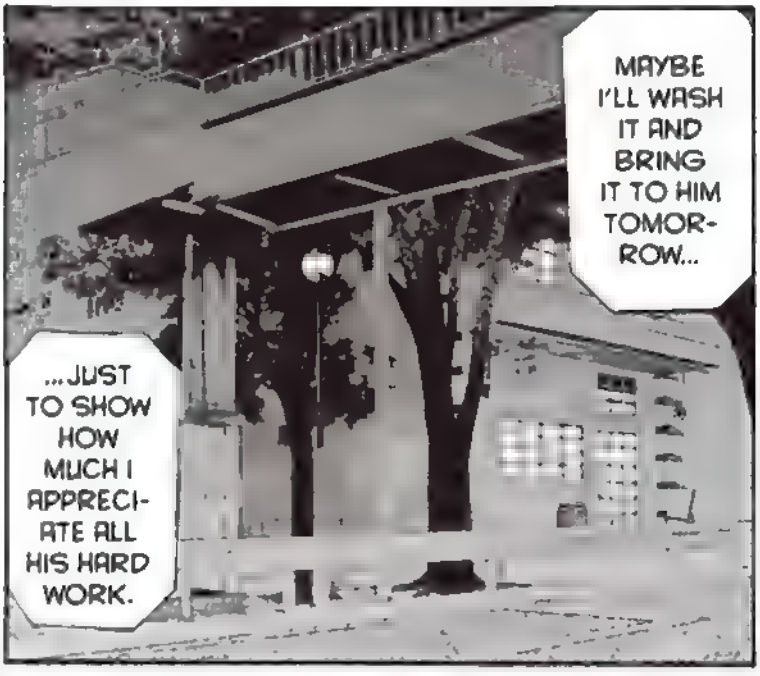
YAMATO-KUN...
...FORGOT HIS BAG.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD JOIN ONE OF THE SCHOOL TEAMS, TOO.
I CAN HANDLE THE CAFÉ BY MYSELF ON WEEK-DAYS.
UM, I'VE GOT SOME STUFF TO DO RIGHT NOW, SO...
TAPPA
TAPPA

IS THIS HIS T-SHIRT...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE, YUI?
WHAT? AH... NOTHING...
IT'S GETTING LATE. GO WASH UP AND GET TO BED
OKAY!

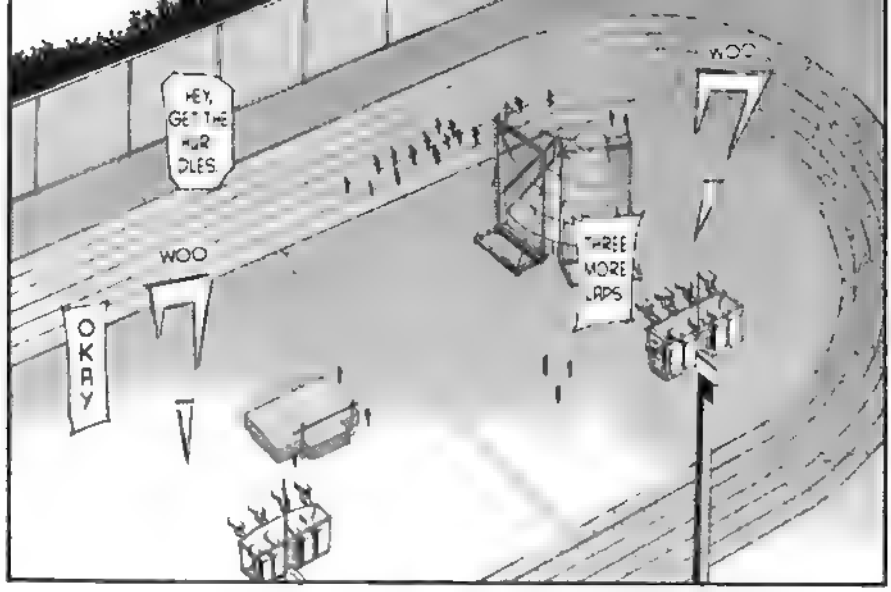
.....
SO... THIS IS WHAT HE WEARS TO PRACTICE...

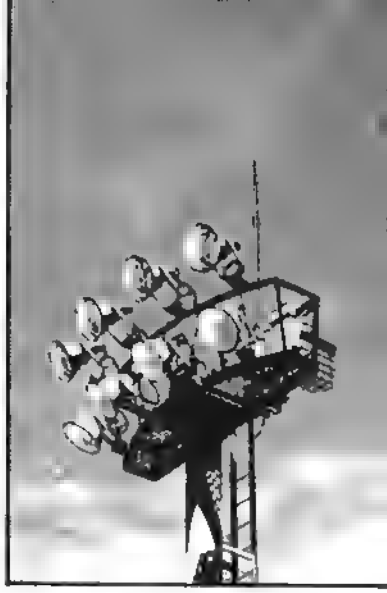

MAYBE I'LL WASH IT AND BRING IT TO HIM TOMORROW...
...JUST TO SHOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE ALL HIS HARD WORK.

HE RUNS AROUND ALL DAY AND HE NEVER GETS TIRED! ISN'T THAT AMAZING?
YEAH!
CHATTER
HEY, LET'S HANG OUT LATER?
NO, I CAN'T. I HAVE A DATE WITH MY BOY-FR END.
CHATTER
OH MY GOD! NO WAY...
YAMATO-KUN THIS... YAMATO-KUN THAT...
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN. ALL SHE EVER TALKS ABOUT IS YAMATO-KUN...
WHAT?
IF YOU LIKE HIM SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL HIM ALREADY. MAYBE HE'LL GO OUT WITH YOU.
WHO WANTS TO LISTEN TO THAT CRAP?
SHUT UP, YOU GUYS. WOULD YOU JUST LISTEN?

YEAH, RIGHT.
YAMATO-KUN ALREADY HAS A GIRLFRIEND!
WHAT? HE'S GOT A GIRL-FRIEND?
HUH? DIDN'T I MEN-TION THAT?
YOU LEFT OUT THE MOST IM-PORTANT PART.
SORRY GUYS, I HAVE TO GO BRING HIM HIS LAUNDRY!
W-WAIT A SEC, YUI!
I DON'T GET HER AT ALL...
YEAH... I GIVE UP..

HE'LL BE SO SURPRISED TO SEE ME HERE.
CLOP
CLOP
I WONDER WHAT HE'LL SAY...?
AS LONG AS I'M HERE, I MIGHT AS WELL WAIT FOR HIM TO GET OUT OF PRACTICE. THEN WE CAN WALK HOME TOGETHER.
I WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE TRACK TEAM ANY-WAY, SO...

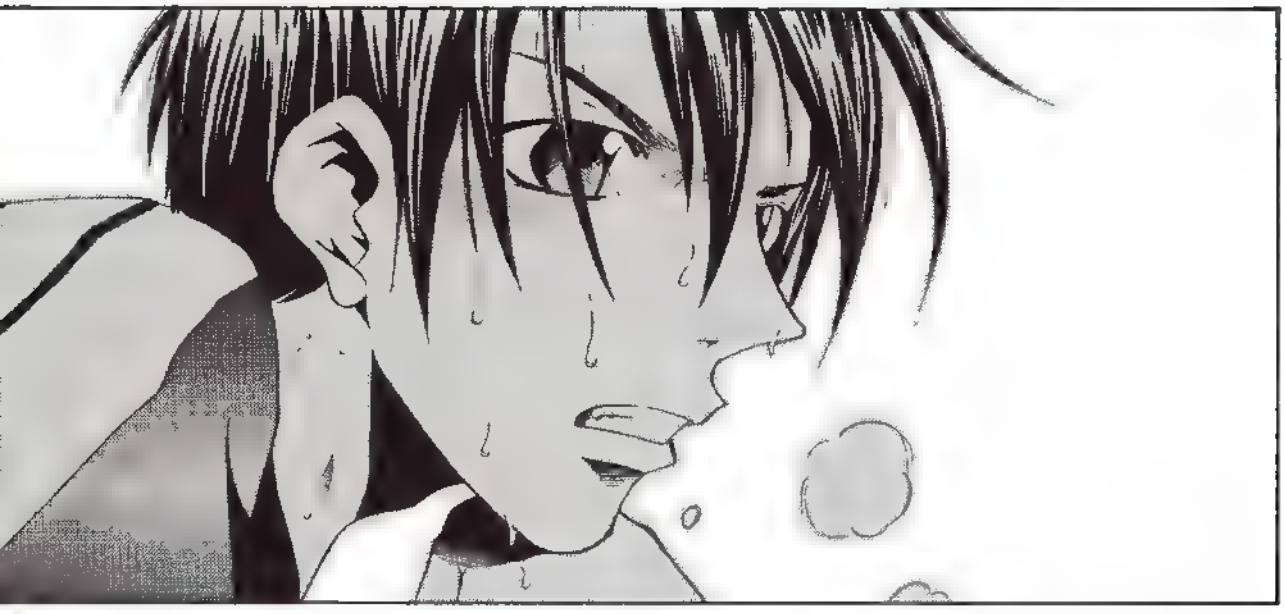

HEY, GET THE HUR DLES.
WOO
OKAY
WOO
THREE MORE LAPS



CLOP

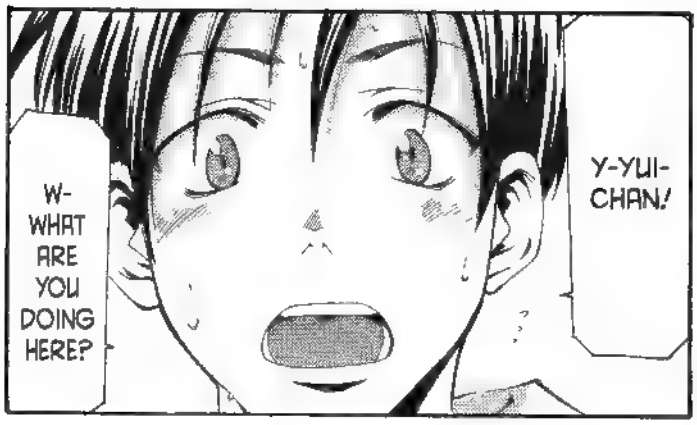
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE STILL GOING.
I HAD NO IDEA THEY PRACTICED SO LATE.

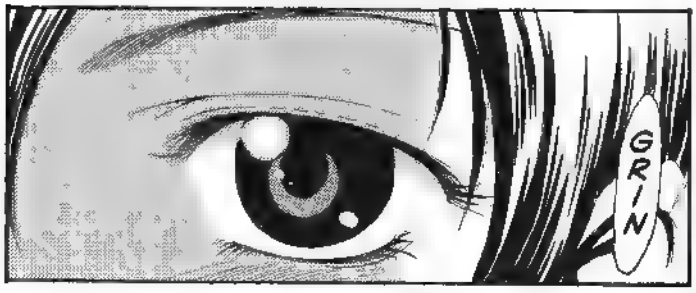
AFTER THIS...
AND HOW THE HECK CAN HE COME INTO WORK...



ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY! THAT'S IT FOR TODAY! MAKE SURE YOU ALL DO A COOLDOWN BEFORE YOU LEAVE, ALL RIGHT?
OKAY!!

YAMATO-KUN!
YOUR TIME IS GETTING A LOT BETTER, AKITSUKI.
YOU'LL BE PRETTY FAST BY THE TIME THE I.H. MEET COMES AROUND...
KALANK
AHHHH...!! I CAN'T EVEN MOVE.
KALANK


Y-YUI-CHAN!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


GRIN

HI, I'M YUI AMAMI. NICE TO MEET YOU!
YEAH. WE WORK TOGETHER..
YOU KNOW HER?

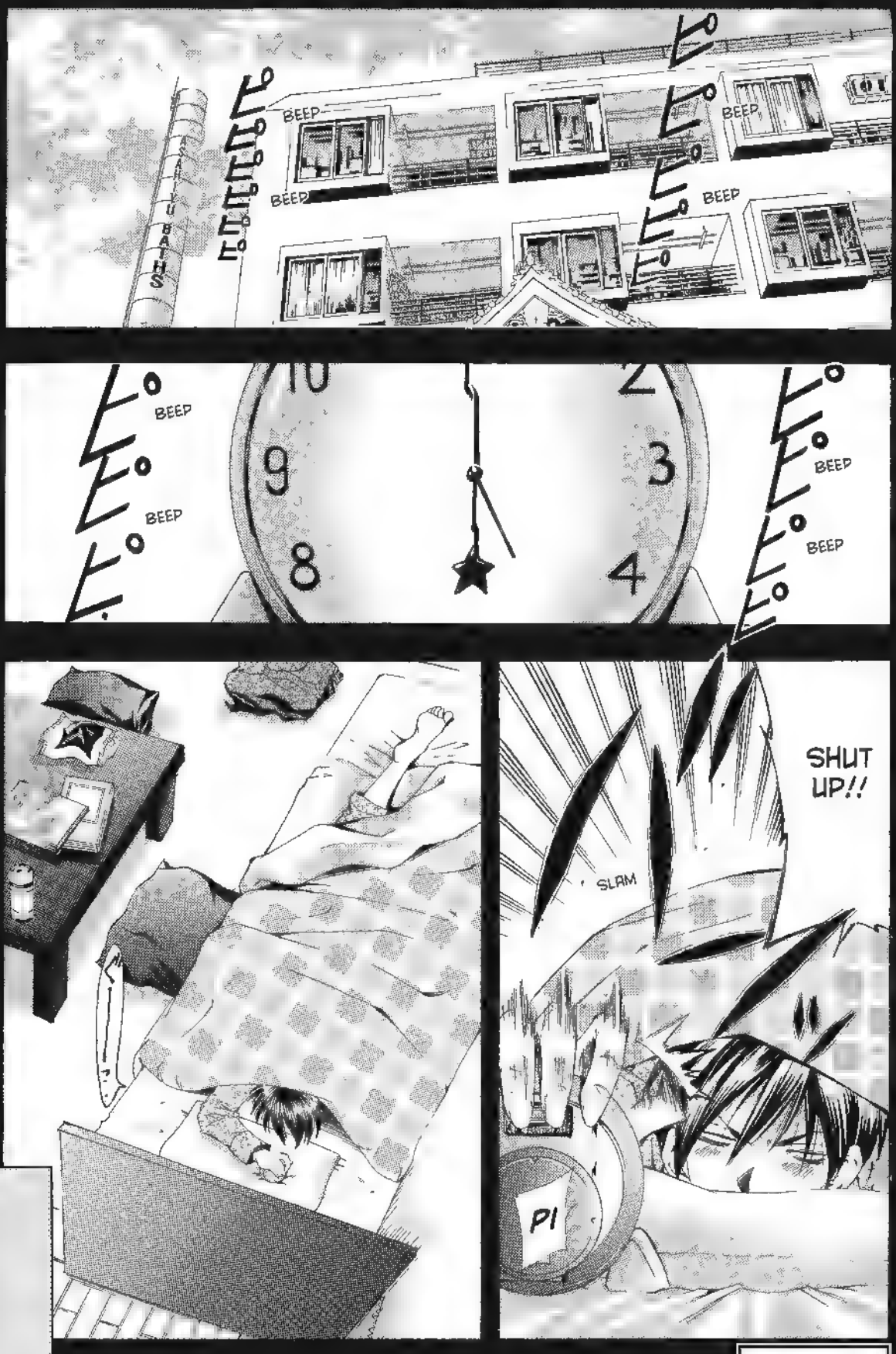
YOU GUYS SURE DO PRACTICE LATE.
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED.

I BROUGHT YOU YOUR T-SHIRT. YOU FORGOT IT THE OTHER DAY.
OH...YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
SENPAI... WHAT DOES HE HAVE THAT I DON'T? OTHER THAN SPEED...
IS IT HIS LOOKS?
H-I DON'T KNOW.
HUH?
YOU WASHED IT?
HA HA. ARE YOU SURPRISED?
Y-YEAH. THANKS! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
SQUEEZE
HEY, NOW THAT YOU'RE DONE WITH PRACTICE, LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER.
WHAT?

SORRY!
I PROMISED I'D GO PICK UP ASAHINA AFTER THIS.
AH...
UH... WELL...
AH...DO YOU WANNA TAG ALONG FOR PART OF THE WAY?
WE'RE GOING IN THE SAME DIREC-TION ANYWAY.

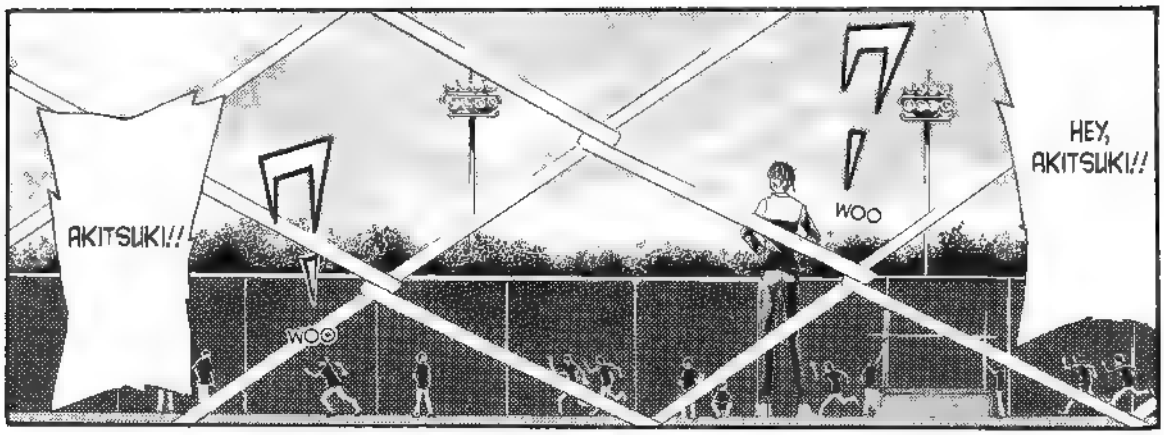
SEE YOU LATER!
AH... WAIT, YUI-CHAN!
WAIT, I TOTALLY FORGOT. I HAVE SOME SHOPPING TO DO.
MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME.
.....?
CIGARETTES
WHAT AM I DOING?
WHAT DID I EXPECT?

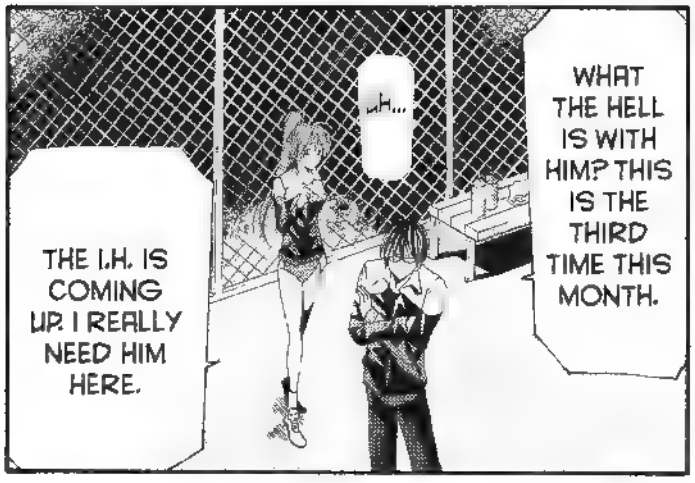
STEP
I'M SO STUPID!
FWAHHH
I KNEW FROM THE START THAT...
.....
YAMATO-KUN...
...HAD A GIRLFRIEND.


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
SHUT UP!!
SLAM
PI
SUZUKA

#105 MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

SUZUKA


AKITSUKI!!
WOO
WOO
HEY, AKITSUKI!!


UH...
THE I.H. IS COMING UP. I REALLY NEED HIM HERE.
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH HIM? THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THIS MONTH.

HE JUST TEXTED ME SAYING THAT HE OVERSLEPT...
OVERSLEPT?

I-I THINK HIS PART-TIME JOB IS WEARING HIM OUT.
THAT'S NO EXCUSE.
HE'S BEEN SLACKING OFF EVER SINCE KINUGASA-SENPAI LEFT.

DING DONG
DING DONG
YAAAWN
YEAH...AND I GOT IN TROUBLE AGAIN FOR OVERSLEEPING AND MISSING PRACTICE.
JOB'S KEEPIN' YOU BUSY, HUH?
YOU LOOK PRETTY TIRED. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH...I GUESS...
CLANK
UH-HUH...
SLURP
ORANGE

I BET YOU HAVEN'T BEEN MAKING TIME FOR SUZUKA-CHAN LATELY, HAVE YOU?
WELL... WE TALK A LITTLE DURING LUNCHTIME AND ON THE WAY BACK HOME FROM SCHOOL...

AS IF THAT'S ENOUGH...
I KNOW YOU ONLY GOT THIS JOB FOR SUZUKA-CHAN, BUT...

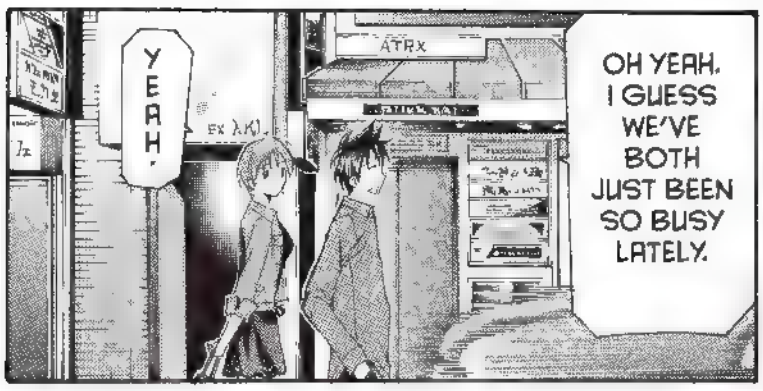
LOOK, WE'RE GOING ON A DATE TOMORROW, ALL RIGHT?
ASAHINA FINALLY HAS THE DAY OFF FOR ONCE!
CLANK
カーン
THE ONLY REASON I'M EVEN N THIS S TLATION IS THAT YOU TOLD ME I NEEDED TO BUY A COMPUTER.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE SOME FUCKING RESPONSIBILITY?
WHATEVER.

THE FOL-LOWING DAY
ASAHYU BATHS
AH... I'M SO SLEEPY...
I SHOULD'VE JUST MADE PLANS TO SEE HER IN THE AFTER-NOON.
NO...
IT'S OUR ONE DAY OFF TOGETHER... I'M NOT SLEEPY! I JUST *THINK* I'M SLEEPY. YEAH... IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.
?
YAMATO-KUN?
SHOCK
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK REALLY SLEEPY.

SO WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME TODAY?
WELL...I THOUGHT WE COULD GO SEE THAT MOVIE YOU MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY...
...THE SEQUEL TO THAT SHIP-WRECK MOVIE.
ARE YOU SURE?
N-NO, NOT AT ALL.
I'M FINE!!
REALLY?
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SEE THAT!
I'M SO EXCITED!!
I GUESS THE MOVIE THING WAS A GOOD PLAN...SHE LOOKS REALLY HAPPY.
C'MON, LET'S GO!
H-HEY, QUIT YANK-ING ON ME.
AH... YEAH...

HUH?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

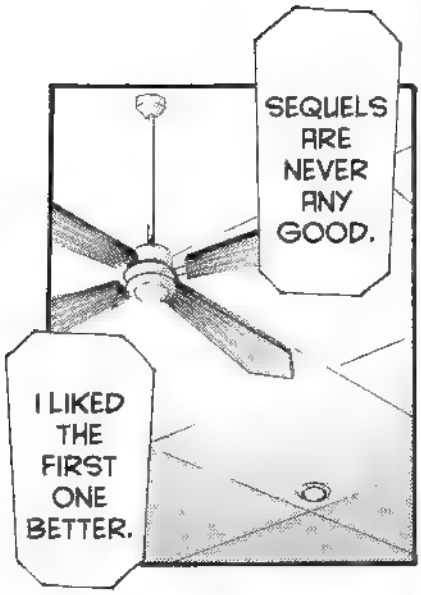
WE WENT TO YOKOHAMA LAST TIME, REMEMBER?
...SINCE WE WENT ON A DATE.


YEAH.
OH YEAH. I GUESS WE'VE BOTH JUST BEEN SO BUSY LATELY.

AH...I WORKED MORE THAN I EXPECTED LAST MONTH, SO I GOT A NICE, BIG PAYCHECK.
WORK'S BEEN GOING PRETTY SMOOTHLY SO FAR.
COOL.
AND IF ALL GOES WELL, I'LL BE ABLE TO BUY MY OWN COMPUTER BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR THE STATES.
JUST DON'T GET HURT ON THE JOB, OKAY.
YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ.
YEAH, YEAH...

ドガァ…
ドォォォン

カタッ…


SEQUELS ARE NEVER ANY GOOD.
I LIKED THE FIRST ONE BETTER.

RESTAURANT CASA

W-WELL... AS LONG AS YOU HAD FUN, IT WAS WORTH IT FOR ME.
IF YOU WERE THAT TIRED, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SOME-THING.

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW? YOU SLEPT THROUGH MOST OF IT.
AH... WELL... HEH...

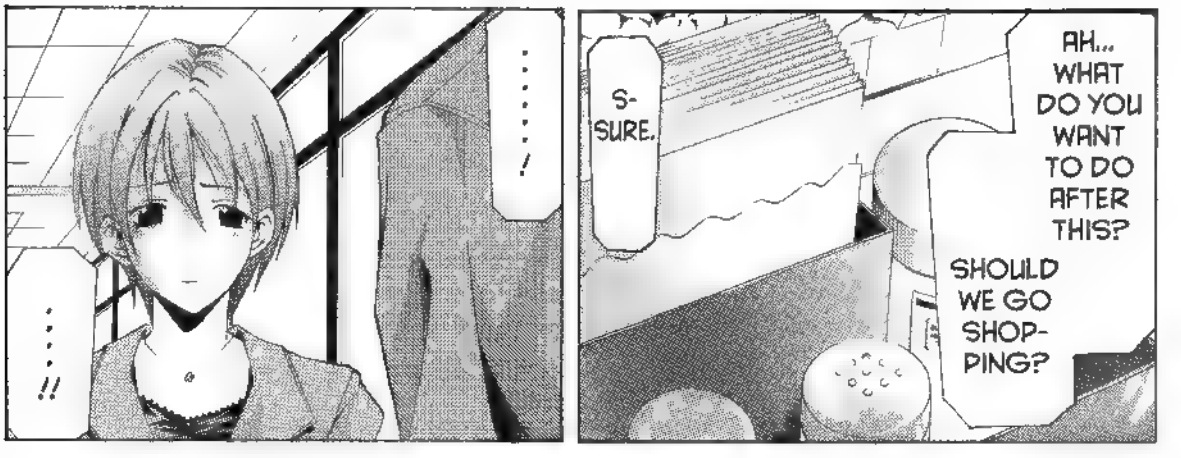
OH... HE DID?
CLINK
YOU KNOW... SASAOKA-SAN ASKED ME HOW YOU WERE DOING.

YOU'VE GOTTA WORK EXTRA HARD SO YOU CAN GET A PAIR OF CUSTOM SHOES MADE FOR YOU.
YEAH!

NAH, FORGET IT. SASAOKA-SAN PROBABLY WON'T EVEN REMEMBER. BESIDES, I'D FEEL BAD ASKING.
H-HE WON'T MIND...
YOU KNOW, I WAS THINKING ABOUT WORK-ING A FEW MORE HOURS STARTING NEXT WEEK.
WHAT?
WELL...
THAT WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE UP MONEY A LOT FASTER...
ALL RIGHT...
LISTEN...
WHAT'S WRONG?
.....

UM...
NEVER MIND...

O-OKAY...


AH... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO AFTER THIS?
S-SURE.
SHOULD WE GO SHOP-PING?
.....!
.....!!

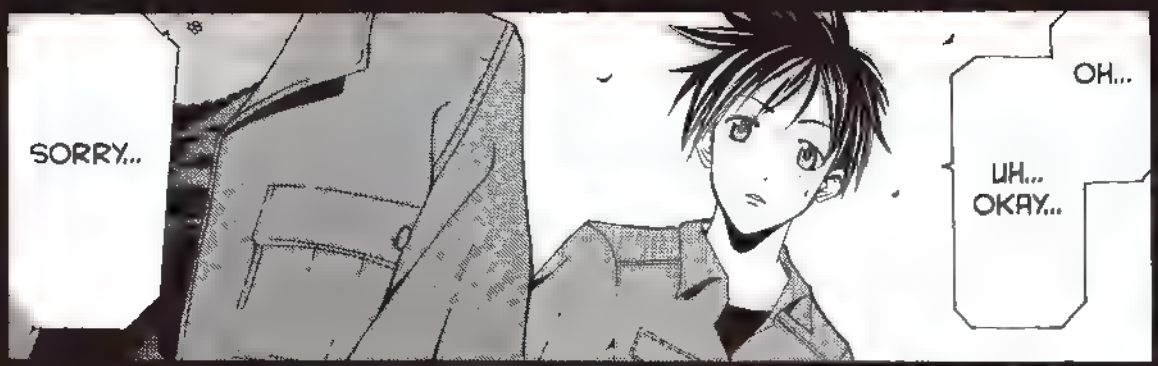
NO...I DON'T REALLY NEED ANY-THING RIGHT NOW ANYWAY, SO...
YOU'RE DONE AL-READY? DO YOU WANT TO GO TO ANOTHER SHOP? I DON'T MIND.
WHY'S SHE SO QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER?
UH...
ARE YOU TIRED OR SOME-THING?

I'VE GOTTA MAKE SOME CONVERSATION...
H-HEY!!
NO, I'M FINE.
CLOP
OH... OKAY...
CLOP
.....
OH YEAH...?
REMEMBER THE OKONOMIYAKI THAT I MADE FOR YOU THE OTHER DAY? WELL, LOTS OF PEOPLE LIKED IT...
A-AND SO... UH...
...SO WE'VE STARTED SERVING IT TO THE CUSTOMERS SOMETIMES!!

.....
I WAS THINKING MAYBE I'D TRY AND LEARN TO COOK FOR REAL.
YOU KNOW, BUY A COOKBOOK AND STUFF...

IF I LEARN TO COOK, THEN I CAN MAKE MORE STUFF FOR YOU.
AND YOU CAN COME VISIT ME AT WORK AGAIN WHEN YOU HAVE TIME...

SORRY...
I-I'M GONNA HEAD HOME.
WHAT?
I GUESS I *AM* PRETTY TIRED.


SORRY...
OH...
UH... OKAY...

BYE.
WELL, SEE YA.

SUZUKA
#106 UNSATISFIED

カン
CLOP
カン
CLOP
HEY! GOOD MORN-ING!!
AH...!
YAMATO-KUN.
HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING FOR ME?
AH... YEAH. ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
YOU SEEMED REALLY TIRED YESTER-DAY...

YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY TIRED LATELY, TOO, YAMATO-KUN. ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY TOMORROW?
TOMORROW?
I'M FINE...
OH, OKAY... GOOD.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? WE HAVE A TRACK TOURNAMENT TOMORROW...
...TO DECIDE WHO'S GONNA GO TO THE I.H. PRELIMS...
OH YEAH... THAT IS TOMORROW, HUH...
I'LL BE FINE! I'VE BEEN TRAINING REALLY HARD. IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
WELL, MAYBE YOU CAN BEAT ARIMA'S RECORD THIS YEAR.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING HIM AT PRACTICE AND HE'S EVEN FASTER NOW.
REALLY?
HMMM...

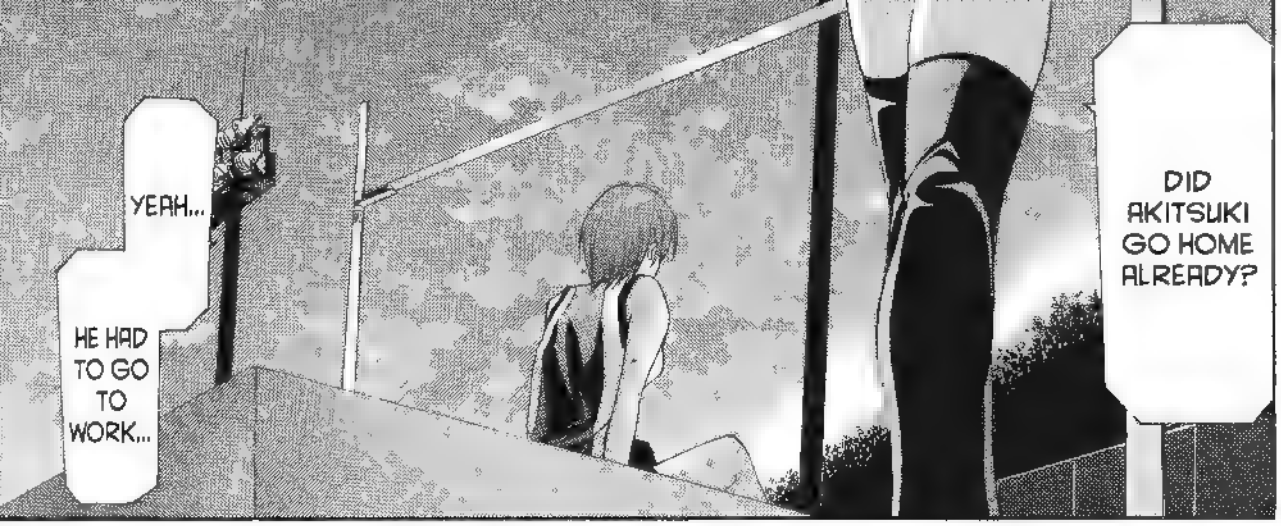
WHAT?
NO WONDER HE'S GOING ABROAD.
I WAS KIND OF RELIEVED TO FIND OUT THAT HE WON'T BE AT THIS YEAR'S I.H. MEET.

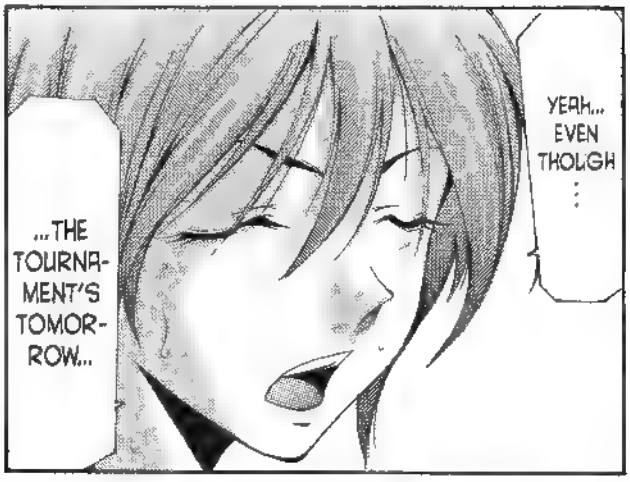
.....
I WATCHED HIM RUN THE OTHER DAY, TOO.
HE REALLY IS SOME-THING...

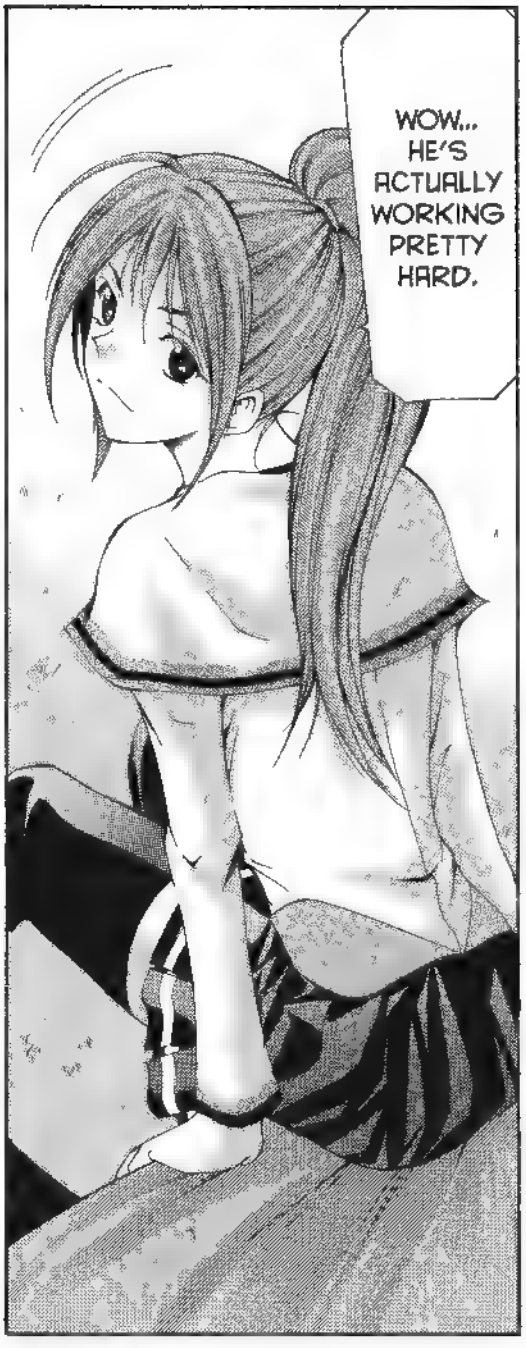
HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE'RE GONNA BE LATE.
YEAH...

YOU'RE STAYING LATE TODAY, TOO?
KEEP IT UP!
STEP
HEY!
TRAINING INTO THE WEE HOURS AGAIN...?
MIKI...

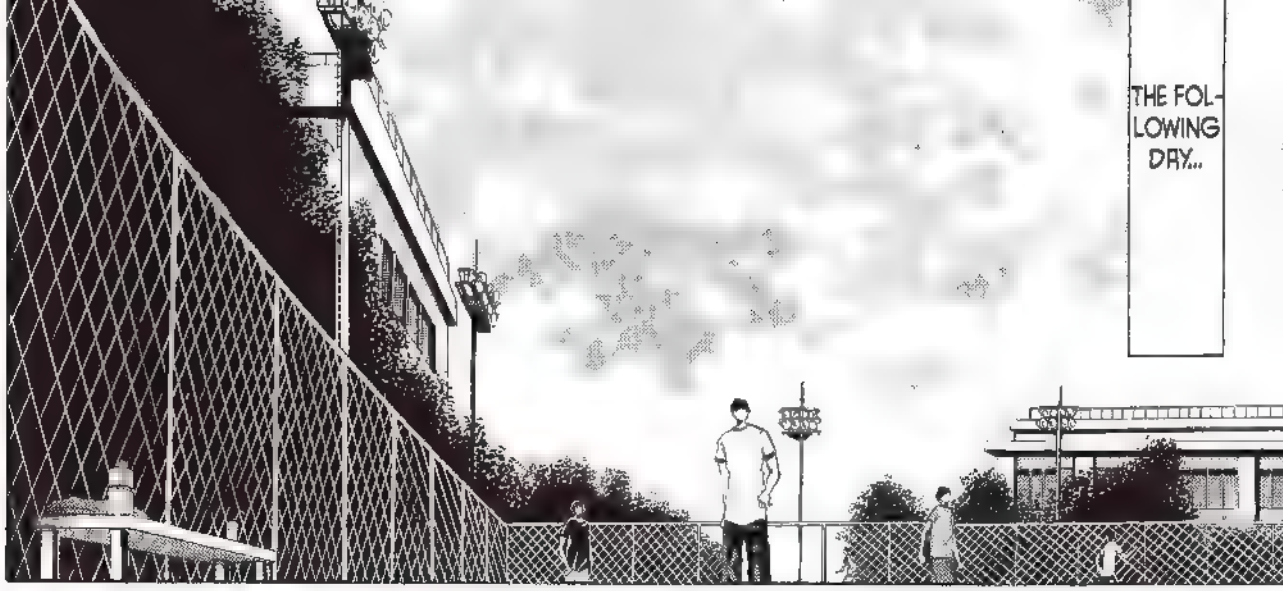

DID AKITSUKI GO HOME ALREADY?
YEAH... HE HAD TO GO TO WORK...

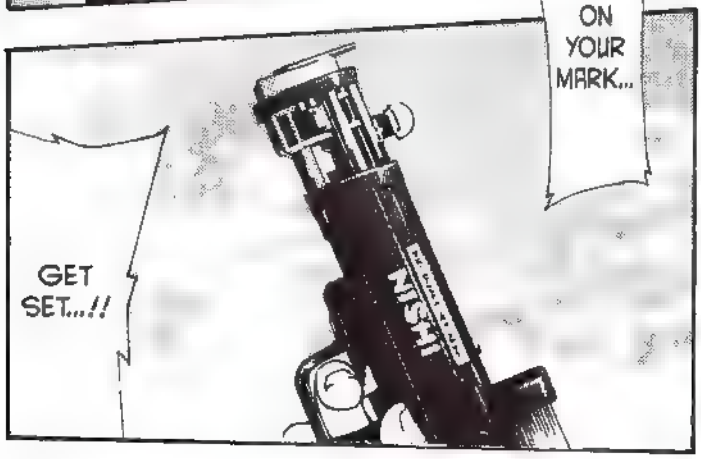

YEAH... EVEN THOUGH...
...THE TOURNAMENT'S TOMORROW...


WOW... HE'S ACTUALLY WORKING PRETTY HARD.

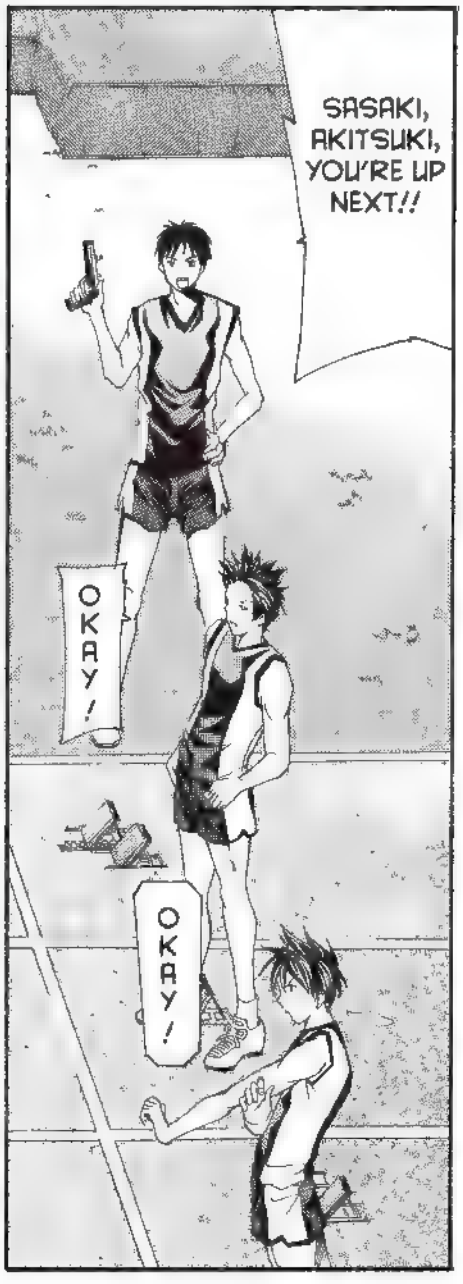
OH, HE'LL BE FINE!
I'M SURE HE'LL MAKE IT TO THE PRELIMS WITH A RECORD-BREAKING TIME, JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES...

DON'T KNOW...
OH, HE WILL! THAT'S JUST THE WAY HE IS.

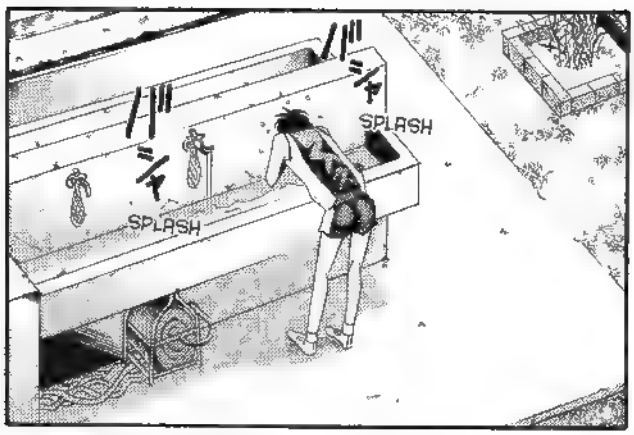

THE FOL-
LOWING
DAY...


ON
YOUR
MARK...
GET
SET...!!
NISHI

.....


SASAKI,
AKITSUKI,
YOU'RE UP
NEXT!!
OKAY!
OKAY!

WHOOSH
BANG


ジャ
SPLASH
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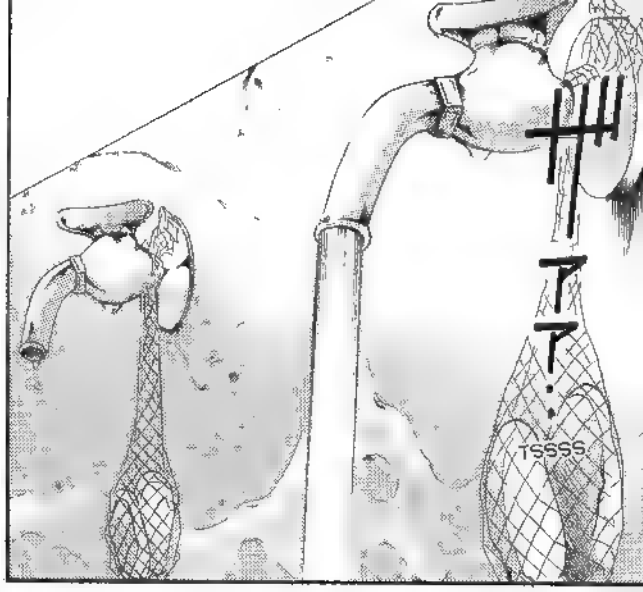
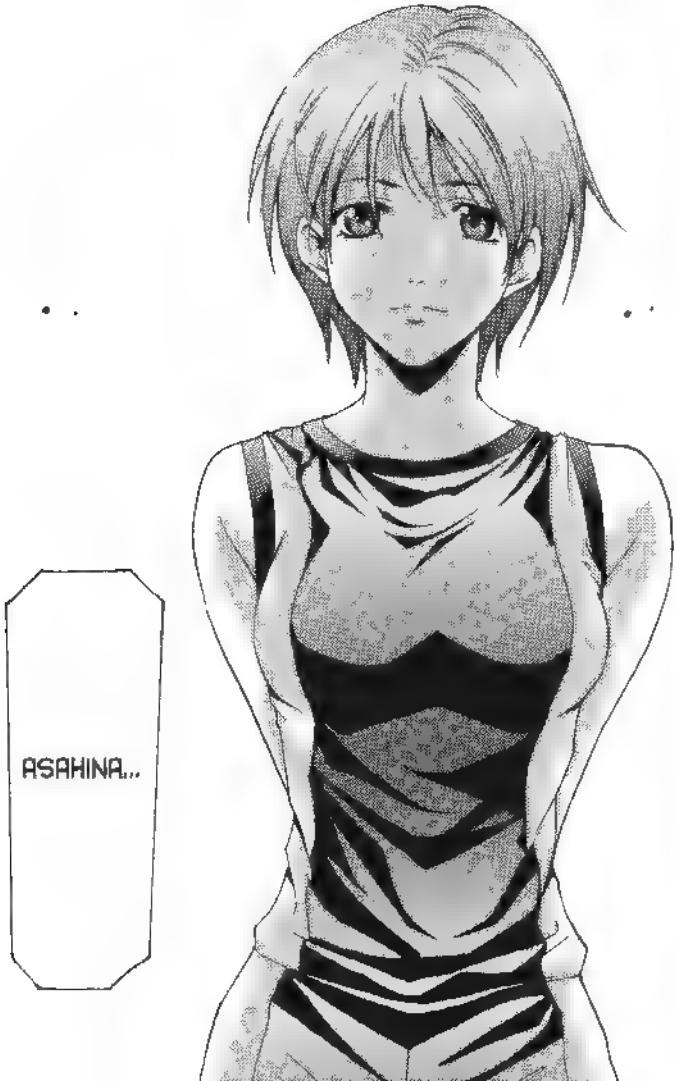

ア・ア・
TSSSS

PHEW...
.....

カツ
CLOMP
HUH?


ASAHINA...

HERE'S YOUR TOWEL...
AH... THANKS.
UM...
DID YOU SEE MY RUN?
YEAH...
OH... OKAY...
W-WELL... MY TIME WASN'T AS GOOD AS LAST TIME, BUT...
I STILL MADE IT INTO THE PRELIMS...
HEY...

WHAT?
WHY DON'T YOU CUT BACK ON YOUR HOURS AT THE CAFÉ A LITTLE?
I'M FINE!
WE WERE A LITTLE BUSY YESTERDAY, SO I WAS KINDA TIRED TODAY, THAT'S ALL.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE TO HAVE ALL THE MONEY BY SEPTEMBER, AND...
I CAN ALWAYS CALL YOU...AT LEAST FOR A WHILE.

BUT YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT ARIMA IS GETTING A LOT FASTER!
DON'T YOU CARE? ARE YOU JUST GONNA GIVE UP AND LET HIM WIN...
YAMATO-KUN...
OF COURSE NOT...
I MEAN...
DO YOU STILL...
...WANT TO BEAT ARIMA?

L-
LOOK...
WELL,
DO
YOU?
.....!
I MAY
NOT BE
TRAINING
AS MUCH
AS I WAS
BEFORE...
...BUT I'M
DOING THE
BEST I CAN!!
SHUT
UP!
THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I ASKED
YOU!!
DOESN'T
IT PISS
YOU OFF?
HE MADE A
COMPLETE
FOOL OUT
OF YOU!
HAVE YOU
FORGOT-
TEN
ALREADY?
NO...
BUT...

WHAT?
I'M NOT LIKE ARIMA, YOU KNOW!!
WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?
BESIDES, HE'S BEEN DOING TRACK MUCH LONGER THAN I HAVE.
.....
HE GOT STARTED WHEN HE WAS WAY YOUNGER.
I CAN'T JUST TRAIN ALL DAY LIKE HE DOES...
I HAVE TO WORK, TOO.
I COULD NEVER CATCH UP WITH HIM.

I HATE WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THIS, YAMATO-KUN!!
THAT'S ENOUGH!! JUST SHUT UP!
.....?
.....
WHAT?

WHAT THE FUCK? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WHY THE FUCK DO YOU THINK I GOT THAT JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE?
AH...
.....

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 13

SPECIAL BONUS MANGA "I LOVE MYSELF" WHAT DOES KOUJI SEO LOOK LIKE?

I NORMALLY DRAW SORT OF GENERIC SELF-PORTRAITS OF MYSELF LIKE THIS IN ORDER TO CONCEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY. I OFTEN GET FAN LETTERS AND E-MAILS ASKING "WHAT DO YOU LOOK LIKE, SEO-SENSEI?" "CAN WE SEE YOUR FACE SOMEWHERE?" SO I'VE DECIDED TO FINALLY REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY! HOW, YOU ASK? WELL, I HAD SOME FRIENDS DRAW THEIR OWN VERSIONS OF ME!

MENU

KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY THE COACH ☆ GIRLS.
KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY STAGE AND VOICE-OVER ACTORS.
KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MY ASSISTANTS.
KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MANGA ARTISTS.
KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MY EDITORS.

* I ASKED THE MANGA ARTISTS, ASSISTANTS, AND EDITORS TO DRAW MY FACE FROM MEMORY.

KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY COACH ☆

DRAWN BY HATSUMI MIURA

DRAWN BY YUMIKO HOSONO

DRAWN BY MANA

DRAWN BY MICHIE KITAURA

~COMMENTARY BY KOUJI SEO~

THANKS FOR BEING SO NICE! I'M NOT GONNA SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY RESEMBLE ME, BUT I REALLY LIKE THE WAY YOU GUYS DREW MY FACIAL EXPRESSIONS. OH, AND THANKS FOR TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK MUCH BETTER THAN I REALLY DO.

KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY ACTORS AND VOICE ACTORS.

DRAWN BY SEIKA HOSOKAWA

DRAWN BY TAKESHI MAEDA

DRAWN BY KOUICHI YOKOTA

DRAWN BY ASAKO YOSHIDA

DRAWN BY AKIKO MACHIDA

~COMMENTARY BY KOUJI SEO~

WOW, ACTORS ARE DEFINITELY GREAT OBSERVERS! THESE DRAWINGS ARE ALL QUITE UNIQUE, BUT I'VE GOTTA SAY THAT MAEDA-SAN'S LOOKS THE MOST LIKE THE REAL ME.

KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MY ASSISTANTS

DRAWN BY KIKYO

DRAWN BY YOSHIMI USHIGUCHI

DRAWN BY MOGI

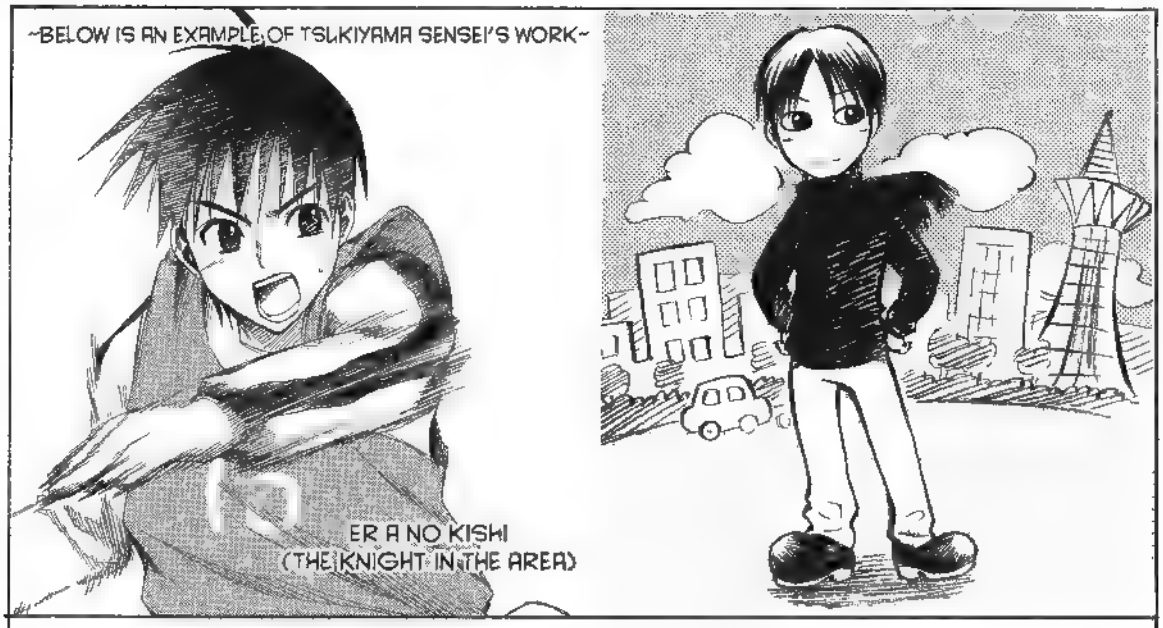
DRAWN BY MIYAKO TAKEUCHI

~COMMENTARY BY KOUJI SEO~

NO ONE WOULD EVER GUESS THAT THESE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE DRAWINGS OF THE SAME PERSON, BUT THEY ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON...THOSE CRAZY LOOKING EYES. I MUST LOOK PRETTY CRAZY WHEN I'M WORKING...

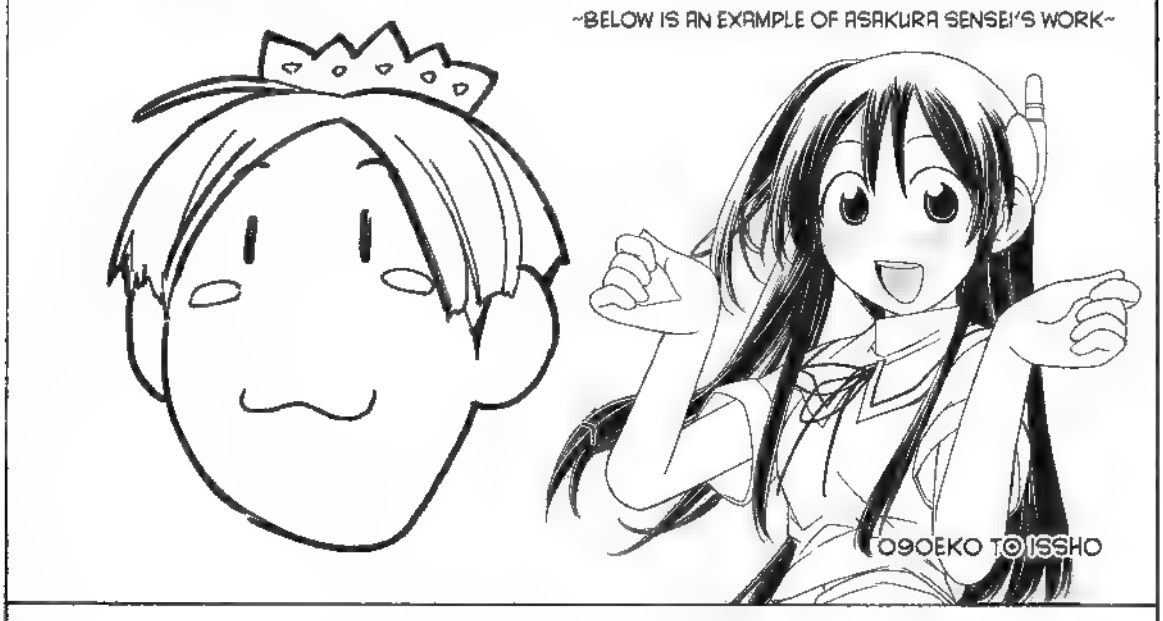
KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MANGA ARTISTS

~BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF TSUKIYAMA SENSEI'S WORK~



DRAWN BY KAYA TSUKIYAMA SENSEI

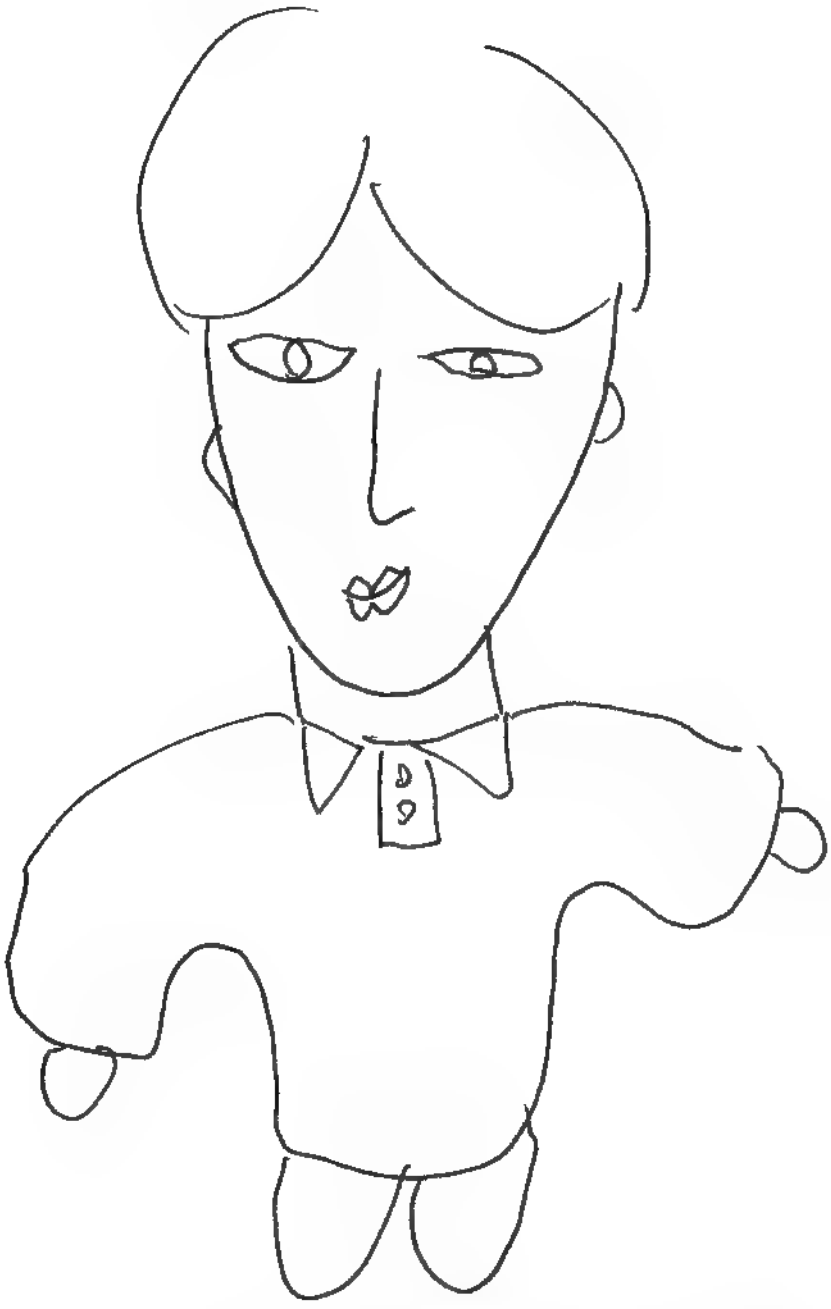
~BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF ASAKURA SENSEI'S WORK~



DRAWN BY MARU ASAKURA SENSEI

~COMMENTARY BY KOUJI SEO~

I REALLY HAVE TO THANK THESE TWO FOR BEING SO NICE. I KNOW TSUKIYAMA SENSEI PRETTY WELL BUT, I ONLY MET ASAKURA SENSEI ONCE ABOUT SEVEN YEARS AGO. ASKING YOU TO DRAW ME FROM MEMORY WAS A TALL TASK INDEED. HEH, SORRY.



DRAWN BY M-TA, MASTER ARTIST

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROJECT!!

DRAWN BY THE S-KI, MASTER ARTIST

~COMMENTARY BY KOUJI SEO~

TA-DAH! TWO MUSEUM-WORTHY, MASTER ARTISTS!! NO OTHER ARTIST COULD EVEN COME CLOSE TO THESE TWO!! YOU CAN TELL THEY REALLY DIDN'T WANNA SPEND TIME ON DRAWING MY BODY. THEY JUST WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS. WHY EVEN BOTHER, GUYS? GEEZ.

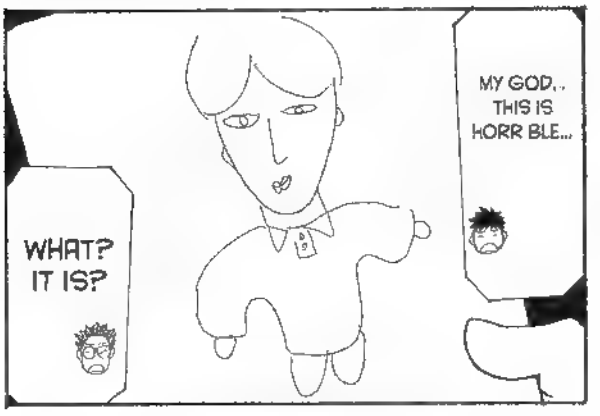
SHUDDER

SHUDDER

SUZUKA "FOUR-PANEL" THEATER

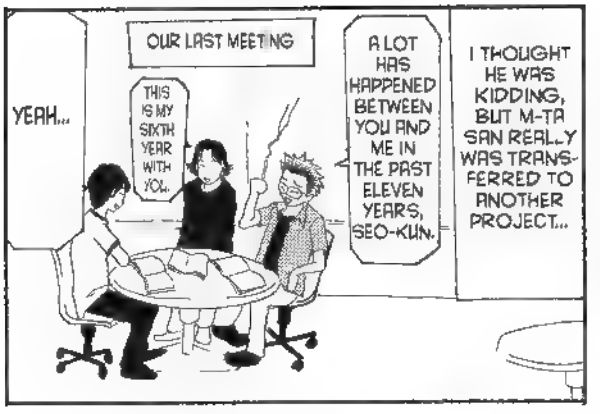
NO. 28 "PORTRAIT DRAWING— THE FINAL PROJECT?"

THANKS! SORRY TO MAKE YOU GO THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE...
HIS HAIR HAS BEEN PRETTY STYLISH LATELY.
SEO-KUN, HERE'S MY DRAWING OF YOU FOR SUZUKA VOLUME 12.



DO ANOTHER ONE AND TRY TO REALLY REMEMBER WHAT LOOK LIKE THIS TIME
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR ELEVEN YEARS, AND THIS IS ALL YOU COULD COME UP WITH?

WHAT?
SO THIS WAS OUR FINAL PROJECT TOGETHER...
REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME TO SPEND ON THIS RIGHT NOW...
SORRY, BUT I'M GETTING TRANS-FERRED TO ANOTHER PROJECT SOON.
I'M NOT GONNA BE YOUR ED TOR ANYMORE, AND.
POOF


OUR LAST MEETING
YEAH...
THIS IS MY SIXTH YEAR WITH YOU.
A LOT HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND ME IN THE PAST ELEVEN YEARS, SEO-KUN.
I THOUGHT HE WAS KIDDING, BUT M-TA SAN REALLY WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PROJECT...

SUZUKA "FOUR-PANEL" THEATER

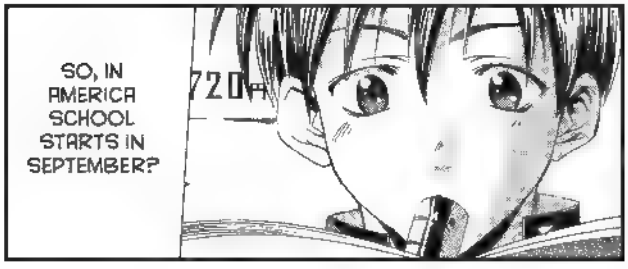
NO. 29 "THANKS FOR EVERYTHING"

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Back to School, page 22

In Japan the school year starts in April.



DAMN IT! I MADE THIRTY CALLS AND I COULDN'T EVEN GET A SINGLE INTERVIEW!!
NOT ONLY AM I NOT GONNA MAKE ANY MONEY, I'M SPENDING TONS ON MAKING THESE STUPID CALLS.

Cha-ching, page 31

In Japan, even local phone calls cost money.

Mama-san, page 34

Japanese bars and hostess clubs are often run by older women called "mama."

Hiroshima dialect, page 36

Japan has many regional dialects. The Japanese spoken in the Tokyo area is generally considered standard Japanese. Most regions outside of Tokyo have their own unique dialects with slightly different vocabulary.

Deja Vu, pages 38–39

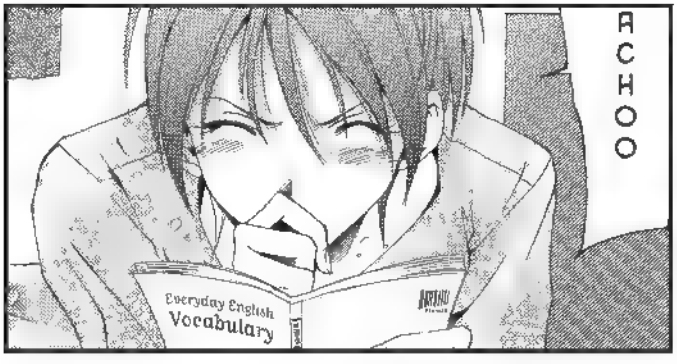
You may have noticed that although the art in these two pages is slightly different, the dialogue is exactly the same. Nope, this isn't a typo. In Japan most manga are published serially in weekly or monthly magazines. It's common for each installment to start with a little flashback of what happened in the previous episode. Page 38 was likely the end of one installment, and 39 the beginning of the next. Since we at Del Rey aim to bring our readers Japanese manga in its purest form, we opted to leave these pages unchanged.

Konbu, page 81

Konbu is a type of seaweed used as a base for making broth.

Okonomiyaki, page 84

Okonomiyaki is often referred to as a Japanese pancake. It's a concoction made up of batter and a mixture of meat, vegetables, egg, and sometimes noodles. At most *okonomiyaki* restaurants your table will have a built-in grill, and you can cook your own *okonomiyaki* right at the table.



Achoo, page 92

In Japan, they say that when someone talks about you behind your back it makes you sneeze.

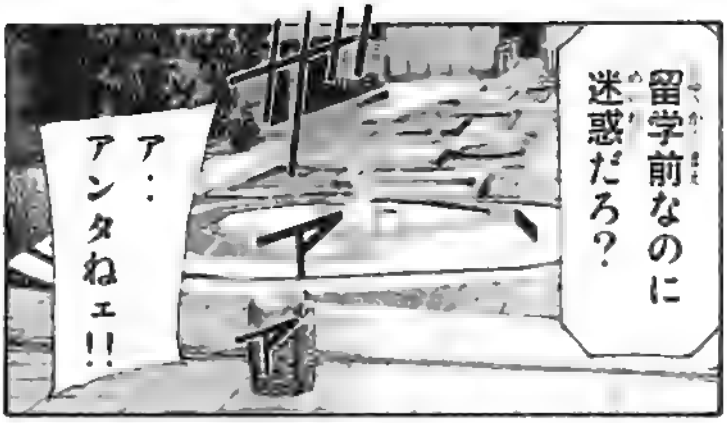
Preview of Volume 13

We're pleased to present you a preview from *Suzuka* volume 13. Please check our website (www.delreymanga.com) to see when this volume will be available in English. For now you'll have to make do with Japanese!

そっかなァ
なんかつき合ってからも
文句ばっか言われてた
気がするけど
愛想尽かされた
んだよ きっと

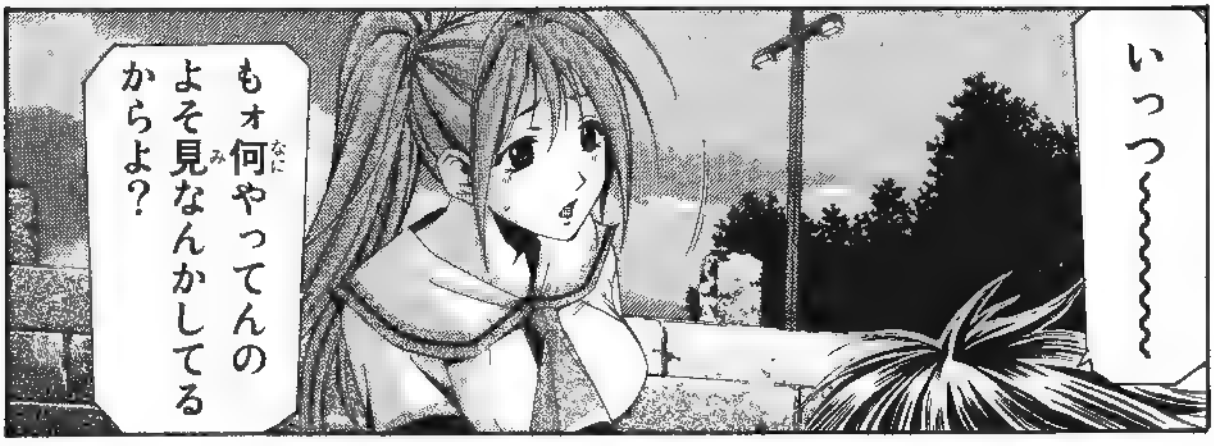
だからって……
そんなことくらいで
別れたりする…？

明日にもやっぱり
涼風の実家行って
みよ
私も行くからさ！
だから
いいってば…


留学前なのに
迷惑だろ？
ア…
アンタねェ!!

カッ!!

おわっ!!
カクッ
……!


いっつ～～～～
もォ何やってんのよそ見なんかしてるからよ?

…確かに
ドジって所は否定できないわね…

……
どうしたの…大丈夫?
もしかしてどこか打ったんじゃ…

秋月・・・・
なによ・・・
やっぱり辛いん
じゃない
うるせーな・・・
ホントお節介だよな
お前って
ハァ
スッ

Gacha Gacha
THE NEXT REVOLUTION

HIROYUKI TAMAKOSHI

JUST ONE OF THE GIRLS

A whole new Gacha Gacha story line begins! Akira Hatsushiba is just your typical, average high school kid . . . until a glitch in a Gacha Gacha video game changes his life forever. Now, every time Akira sneezes, his entire body undergoes a gender-bending switcheroo! That's right, Akira is always just an *achoo* away from getting in touch with his feminine side. But it's not all bad. Akira has had a crush on Yurika Sakuraba ever since he first laid eyes on her. He's always been too shy, but now that he can change into a girl, Akira finally has a chance to get close to Yurika. Being a girl certainly has its advantages!

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RATING M AGES 18+

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The Otaku's Choice

Gacha Gacha: The Next Revolution © 2004 Hiroyuki Tamakoshi / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls

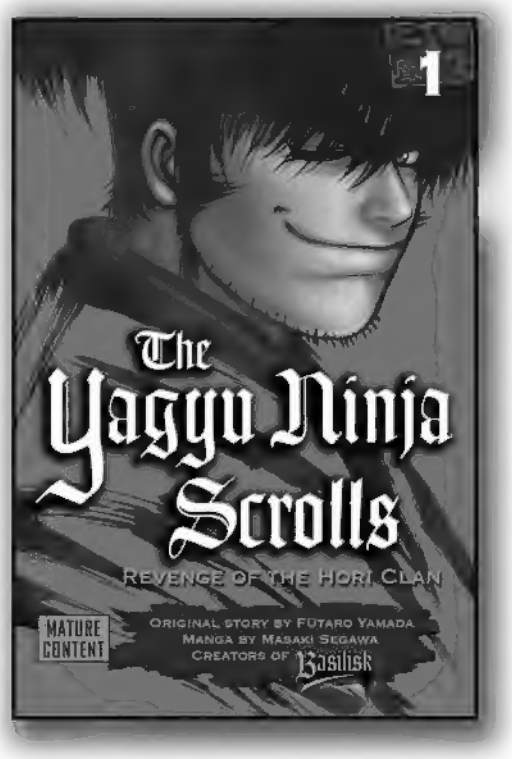
REVENGE OF THE HORI CLAN

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA
MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

VOW OF VENGEANCE!

Seventeenth-century Japan: A rebellion in the Aizu territory has been brutally crushed, leaving twenty-one brave warriors dead and most of the nuns of the local convent slaughtered. Now the surviving nuns have sworn to seek revenge.

- **From the creators of *Basilisk***



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You are going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different
type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning,* go to the *end*!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the *opposite* of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be.